Boncodin admits Agile role in budget department

Story on PAGE A3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
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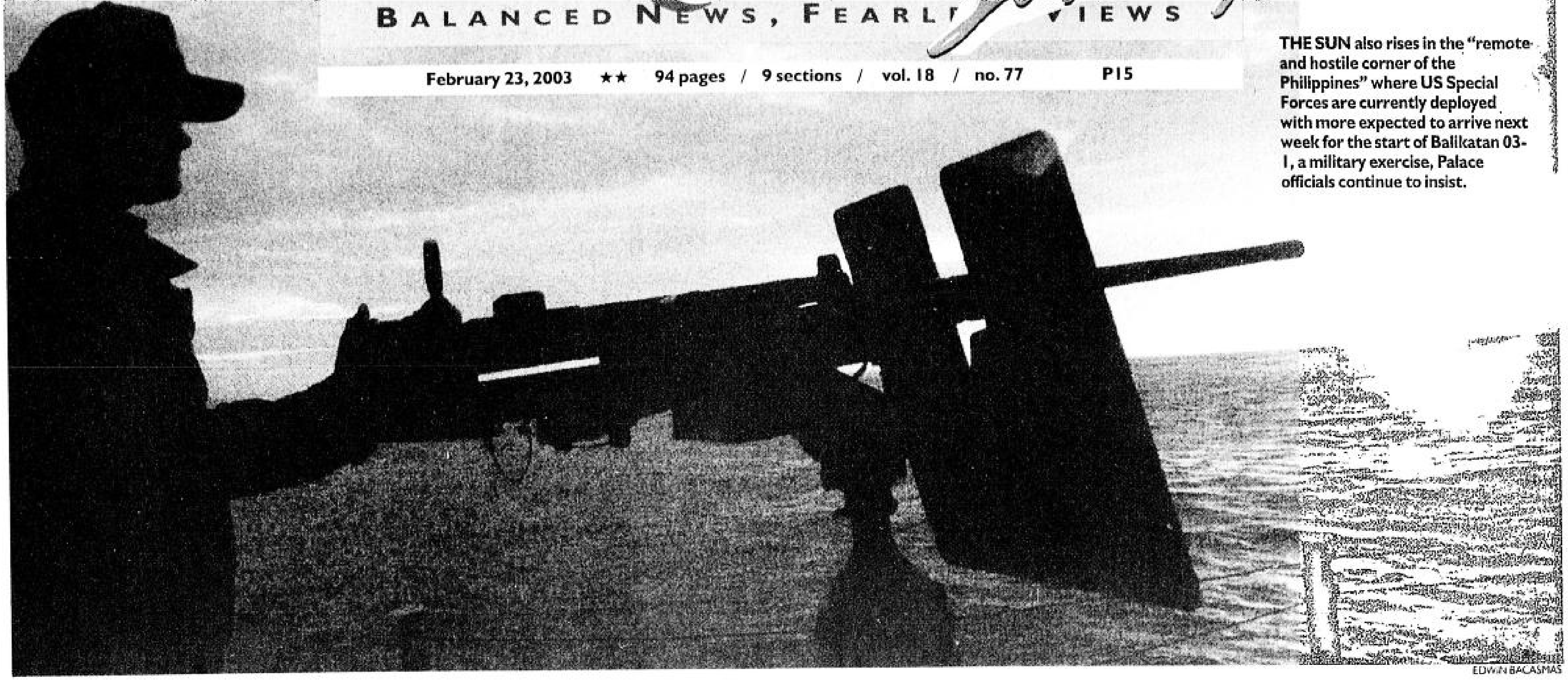


THE SUN also rises in the "remote and hostile corner of the Philippines" where US Special Forces are currently deployed with more expected to arrive next week for the start of Balikatan 03-1, a military exercise, Palace officials continue to insist.

EDWIN BACASMAS

White House: It is true

US confirms troops joining operations vs Abu Sayyaf in Jolo

THE WHITE House confirmed Friday that US troops would take part in operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Sulu, but said the Philippine military would take the lead.

Speaking with reporters in Crawford, Texas, where US President George W. Bush was spending the weekend at his ranch, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said: "The Armed Forces of the Philippines will conduct operations supported by United States troops against the Abu Sayyaf Group. The Armed Forces of the Philippines has the lead and US forces will assist them."

Fleischer said the Philippine government had requested the US troops.

He declined to discuss the number of soldiers to be deployed and did not say whether they would engage in combat, as unnamed Pentagon officials specified Thursday in reports carried by the US media including the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN and wire agencies. *(Washington Post editorial on Page A18.)*

He referred questions on the rules of engagement of the US troops to the Pentagon, where Philippine Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes is expected shortly for consultations.

Fleischer took issue with US-based critics who had argued that the Abu Sayyaf was just a ragtag group of bandits and did not merit being drawn into the US anti-terror campaign.

"Abu Sayyaf is not a small, disorganized band of terrorists," he said. "They are a very serious and deadly terrorist organization which, if they have their way, intend to wreak havoc on the people of the Philippines.

"And the United States is proud to stand together with our friends the Philippines to counter the threat."

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the US media had been taken for a ride (*kuryente* in Philippine journalistic jargon).

Bunye insisted Friday that the Philippine and US governments had yet to agree on ground rules for Balikatan 03-1 and said any action would be in line with the Constitution, which bans foreign combat troops on Filipino territory.

But according to a Pentagon official quoted, US special operations troops will join Filipino soldiers in combat "to disrupt and defeat the Abu Sayyaf."

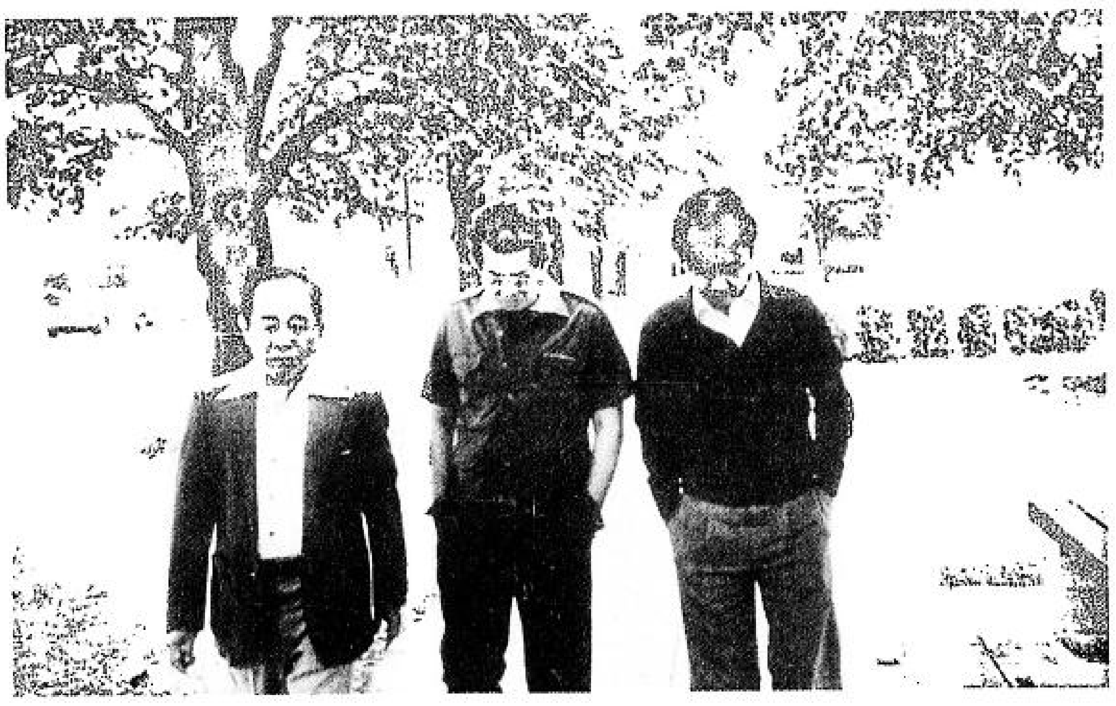
"This is different," the official said. "This is an actual combined operation, and it is US forces accompanying and actively participating in Philippine-led of-

WHITE/ A18

WHERE EDSA I BEGAN

THE JOURNEY to Edsa I began with Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. The martyrdom of Ninoy was a shot heard around the world.

WHERE/ A18



LAST day in his home in Newton, Mass., Ninoy goes to church with Jose Calderon (left) and Heherson Alvarez.

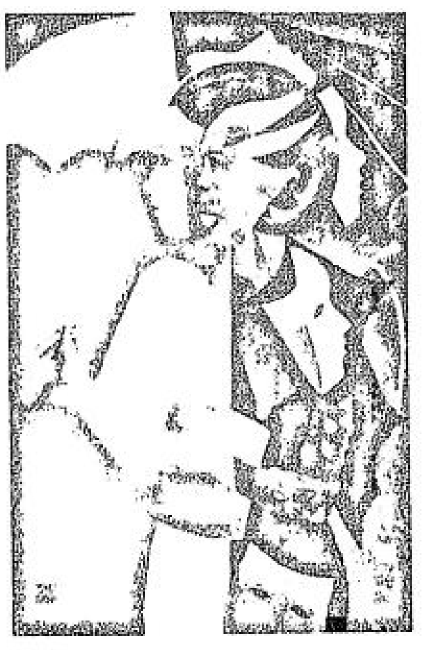
MARTIAL LAW DILEMMA: HOW TO SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE IMELDA

There's a little known story about how this painting of Imelda Marcos by National Artist Vicente Manansala, came to be, and why he kept it away from public view during his lifetime. He himself titled it, "Ang Babae at kanyang Mga Maskara."

It was 1978, six years after the proclamation of martial law by President Ferdinand Marcos. And the much sought-after Manansala had a dilemma.

The First Lady Imelda Marcos had requested him to do her portrait. Which honored the artist but at the same time he could not reconcile his loathing for martial rule and his

MARTIAL/ A17



OKEY LANG! WALA NA NAMAN AKO N'YAN, E!
AGR

Repent! The end is near (57 years away)

LONDON—Armageddon is just 57 years away, by the calculations of Britain's most famous scientist, the Daily Telegraph newspaper reported on Saturday.

Sir Isaac Newton, the 17th century scientist and theologian, wrote thousands of pages of notes in his attempt to decode the Bible and pin down the date of the apocalypse, said the article.

"But until now it was not known that he ever wrote down a final figure," Malcolm Neaum, who has produced a BBC documentary "Newton: The Dark Heretic," was quoted as saying.

"What has been coming out over the past 10 years is what an apocalyptic thinker Newton was," he added. "He spent something like 50 years and wrote 4,500 pages trying to predict when the end of the world was coming."

The handwritten manuscripts bearing Newton's calculations were discovered by researchers in a library in Jerusalem, following their sale in London to collector Abraham Yahuda in the 1930s.

Newton, who died in 1727, is best known for discovering gravity—supposedly when an apple fell on his head—and is credited with being the forefather of modern physics. *Reuters*

Color them yellow, blue

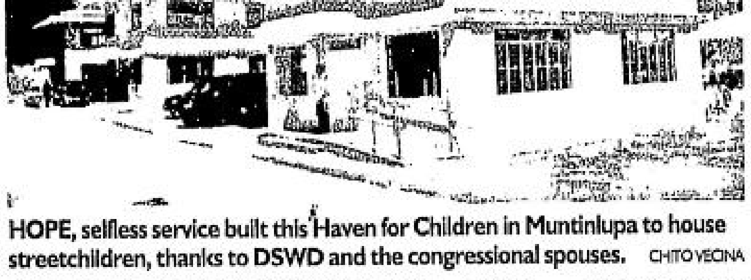
By Cathy Babao Guballa

SUNNY yellow and ocean blue. Most unlikely colors for a home for children who have only known rough and dangerous lives in the streets of Manila. But they color the four large and airy Haven for Children inaugurated last Monday. They are the colors of hope and selfless service.

Yellow and blue are the colors respectively of the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Together, they prove what a partnership between the government and the private sector can do.

These new structures, visible from Zapote Road, now line the main artery of Muntinlupa, a city once popular for only one thing—as the home of the National Penitentiary. The Haven for Children is the latest addition to what DSWD Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman likes to describe as "a place of caring."

COLOR/ C4



HOPE, selfless service built this Haven for Children in Muntinlupa to house streetchildren, thanks to DSWD and the congressional spouses. CHITO VEONA

Untold story of Edsa I: Bamban barricade

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—The 1986 civilian-backed revolt that toppled Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship was not limited to Edsa.

The uprising of Feb. 22-25, 1986, also took place 100 kilometers north of that now historic highway. But the story of the "Bamban Barricade"—as how then Malaya correspondent Elmer Cato called the Kapampangans' version of People Power I—largely went untold.

Cato, now Central Luzon director of the Department of Foreign Affairs, said the story was not reported by the Manila newspapers because "the event was overtaken by the collapse of the Marcos regime."

And yet, he said, the little known episode marked by the formation of a human barricade at the approach of Bamban Bridge, gateway to Marcos challenger Corazon Aquino's home province of Tarlac, was a vital phase in the ouster of the strongman.

This was how it happened in Cato's recollection:

On Feb. 25, more than 20,000 civilians blocked the bridge on the Mabalacat (Pampanga) side.

They stood nervous but alert, their arms tightly linked. Their mission: to stop the advance of a large armored column from the Army's Northern Luzon Command at Camp Servillano Aquino in Tarlac City.

The mission of the soldiers, led by Gen. Antonio Palafox, was no less urgent: to reinforce Marcos' loyalist forces at Edsa. (Earlier, Marines sent by then Armed Forces chief Gen. Fabian Ver had been held at bay by the crowd massed on the highway.)

But Lt. Col. Amado Espino Jr.,

UNTOLD/ A17

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/02/23/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

'Abu has deployed 50 suicide bombers'

By Arlyn de la Cruz
Contributor

FIFTY "suicide bombers" have been trained and deployed by the Abu Sayyaf in key areas of Mindanao as early as last September, according to an intelligence officer based in Southern Philippines.

The bombers are "fresh recruits whose ages range from 18 to 35 years," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"From what I gather, they're suicide bombers," the source said, speaking to the INQUIRER by cellular phone.

"We were successful in arresting the Malagutay, Zamboanga bombers, but we know there are more out there," said the military official.

According to the source, the military has been following up a lead on the possible transfer of a "large amount" of foreign financial assistance from the Middle East.

He admitted the authorities have no idea if the transfer of funds had pushed through.

"I am assuming it did materialize because of the bombing," he said.

Khaddafy Janjalani, the Abu Sayyaf chieftain, and his operations officer Abu Soliman were said to have conducted the training themselves in a camp on one of the Sulu islands.

In September 2001, Janjalani and Soliman were reported to have left Basilan island along with two Yemenis. This was confirmed by the released hostages who had been abducted from the Golden Harvest Plantation in Basilan.

The Yemenis allegedly arrived in Basilan before the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States.

More solid

Latest US Pentagon reports indicate that the al-Qaida international terror link may be more "solid with the Abu Sayyaf than with the MILF."

Yesterday, at about 4:30 in the afternoon, Soliman made a third call to this reporter warning of another bomb that would explode in Central Mindanao.

At about 5:30 yesterday afternoon, a bomb exploded in the Koronadal Commercial Center in South Cotabato.

"We have planted some Vetsin, you wait a few minutes, you will hear of it," Soliman said in Filipino.

Text messages were also circulating in Central Mindanao yesterday warning of bomb attacks in "bridges and vital installations."

Asked why his group was doing this, Soliman said: "I told you yesterday, it's the fury of an oppressed people. It will not stop until the government listens to us."

Janjalani did not release a statement but he was with Soliman during the phone conversation. Each carries a $5 million bounty on their heads.

Soliman earlier also claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Awang airport in Cotabato City earlier this week.

'On the run'

But Abuamre Taddik, vice chair for military affairs of the Council of 15 of the Moro National Liberation Front, said he did not believe the Abu Sayyaf were responsible for the series of bombings in Central Mindanao this week.

"They are on the run, how can they do it?" said Taddik.

Any alliance between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Abu Sayyaf at this point was "far from the truth," he said.

"As far as the MNLF is concerned, we view the ASG as a creation of the US Central Intelligence Agency," said Taddik who is now in Manila along with other top MNLF commanders.

Another INQUIRER source, a Sulu-based rebel commander, revealed that some members of the MNLF Misuari faction have joined the Abu Sayyaf.

"Some of my more adventurous men have joined Khaddafy," said the 41-year-old MNLF-Misuari faction commander.

"There's no actual integration of forces between the Abu Sayyaf and the MNLF, but whenever there are encounters like the recent encounter in Patikul involving the men of Radhulan Sahiron, we give back-up forces in the same manner that they give us back-up," he explained.

He said Soliman has always been regarded by all MNLF members as "one tough commander who started with the MNLF and was wounded in several encounters beginning in the early 1970s."

Moro leaders call for ceasefire, talks

MINDANAO leaders yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately declare a ceasefire and resume peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, fearing that the ongoing hostilities in North Cotabato could spread to neighboring provinces.

This was the sentiment of participants in the one-day Summit of Muslim Leaders held in Davao City yesterday, said Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who was one of the main organizers, in a press statement.

The summit was called in the wake of renewed clashes between government and rebel troops after the Armed Forces launched military operations against a combined force of MILF fighters and bandits in the rebel stronghold of Pikit, North Cotabato.

After a week-long offensive, government forces captured the MILF's Buliok complex in Pikit. The fighting displaced some 42,000 people in North Cotabato and some 78,000 more in Maguindanao province as the fighting spread to nearby areas.

Afraid

The main concern was the fate of the 80,000 displaced people now staying in various evacuation centers who are afraid to return home in the absence of a truce between the government and the MILF, Pimentel said.

The MILF has rejected government initiatives for back-channel talks, saying they preferred a resumption of formal peace negotiations but only with the intervention of Malaysia.

"We will only resume talking peace if Malaysia intervenes," said rebel spokesperson Eid Kabalu.

But Secretary Norberto Gonzalez, presidential assistant for special concerns, said he was still hoping to start back-channel talks with the MILF's chief negotiator, Murad Ebrahim.

"We need to talk to stop all that is happening in Central Mindanao and I am confident I can draw the MILF back to the negotiating table," Gonzales told the Church-run dxMS radio from Kuala Lumpur, where he has gone to persuade the MILF leadership to talk again.

Insincerity

Kabalu again accused the government of insincerity in its dealings with the group.

"We do not know whom to believe in this government," Kabalu said.

Secretary Jesus Dureza, the chief government negotiator and presidential assistant for Mindanao, said the technical committee on the cessation of hostilities must meet first to discuss the military offensive in Pikit.

But Kabalu insisted that any talks would not succeed if the "troops on the ground are fighting." *Martin P. Marfil, Cynthia D. Balana and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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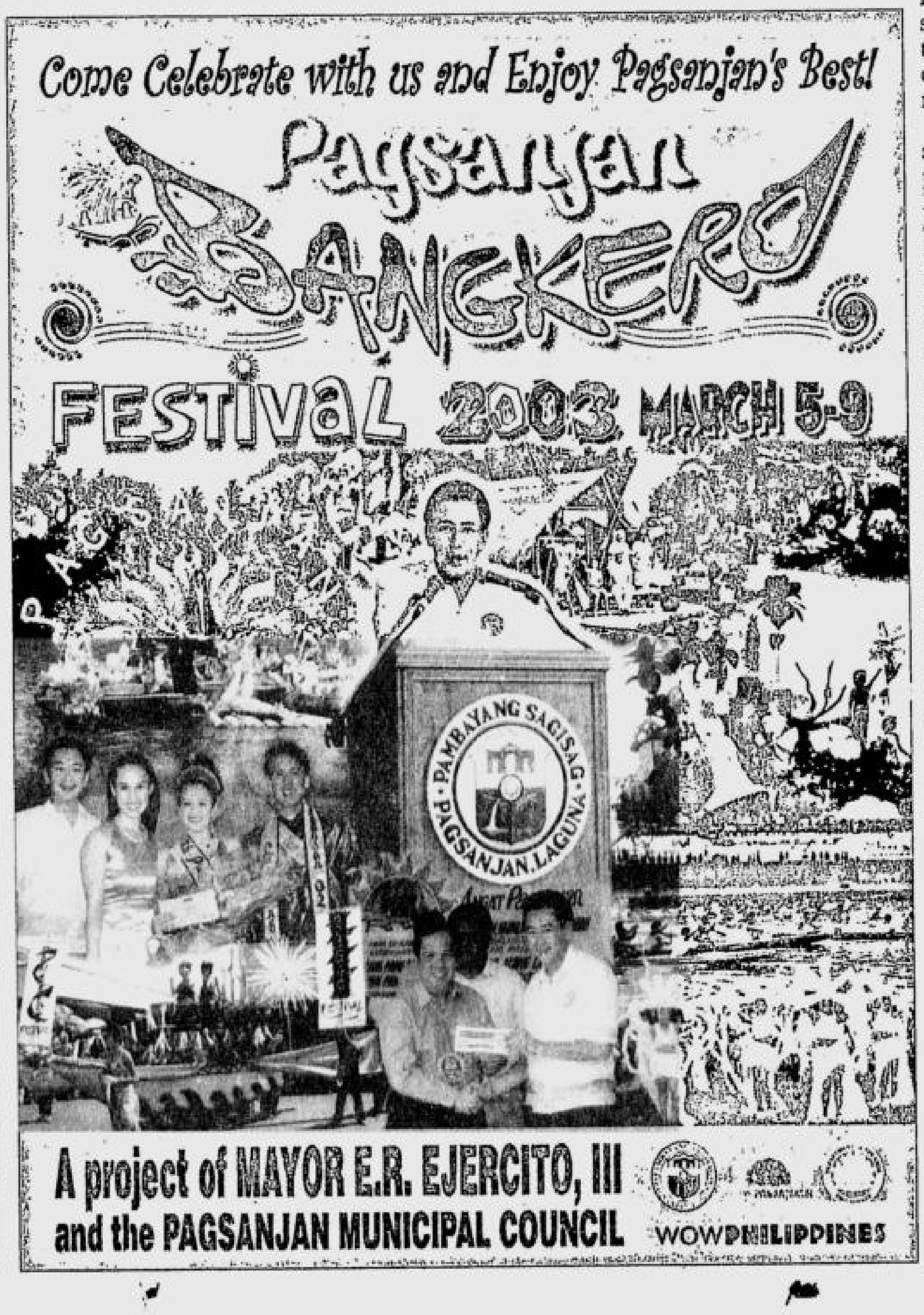

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Budget chief admits Agile role in her department

By Dona Pazzibugan

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin admitted yesterday her department had employed the services of the United States-funded lobby group, Accelerating Growth Investment and Liberalization with Equity (Agile).

Boncodin said Agile helped the Department of Budget and Management finalize the recently signed procurement reform law and come up with a public expenditure management plan.

The Budget chief, however, denied that Agile influenced DBM policies, as alleged by some lawmakers.

In an interview over radio dzMM, she said she treated Agile as "advisers," and the group did not meddle in policies and decisions. For instance, she said, the procurement reform law was the department officials' own version.

The Senate is currently investigating Agile's connection with various government offices, accusing the group of manipulating policies to suit US interests.

Yesterday, Senate Minority Floor Leader Vicente Sotto III said the group should declare the truth about its nature, mission, composition and activities.

"Is it an angel, an eagle, or an octopus?" Sotto demanded, saying the group's name didn't say much. "What bills, laws and executive orders has Agile sponsored, is sponsoring and will sponsor? Who are its officers, employees and representatives?"

Boncodin recounted that, before her term, DBM had tapped Agile to do research and conduct staff training and other workshops in order to fast-track the department's work.

At the start, she said, Agile suggested, but "did not impose," which consultants the department should hire to work on the procurement reform and expenditure management program.

When she assumed office two years ago, Boncodin said, she insisted that the DBM alone should choose the consultants.

In her experience, she pointed out, "Agile did a good job." She also said the Agile resource persons she worked with were quiet but "very" competent and efficient.

Asked about the group's alleged manipulations, she said: "I don't think this group is like that."

The only problem she had with Agile, she joked, was that it claimed too much credit for passing important laws. "I can understand that being a consultancy firm, they would brag. But they overdid it."

CAB denies favoring airline

THE CIVIL Aeronautics Board (CAB) has denied allegations that its executive director, Manuel San Jose, committed "unauthorized and illegal acts" by granting a temporary operating permit to CLA Transport Inc.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said earlier the supposed Japanese cargo carrier was "nonexistent." A non-government organization also alleged that San Jose pushed for CLA's designation as an official cargo carrier.

CAB granted the permit to operate a purely cargo air transport services on June 6 last year after CLA submitted "evidence to show its financial and technical capacity," the board said in a press statement.

Further, the board said, other carriers were notified of the application.

The same NGO accused San Jose of resuming air talks with the United Arab Emirates despite overcrowding along the Philippines-UAE route.

The board explained that bilateral air negotiations were scheduled and decided on by a a panel created by executive order and not by the CAB alone, "much less its executive director."

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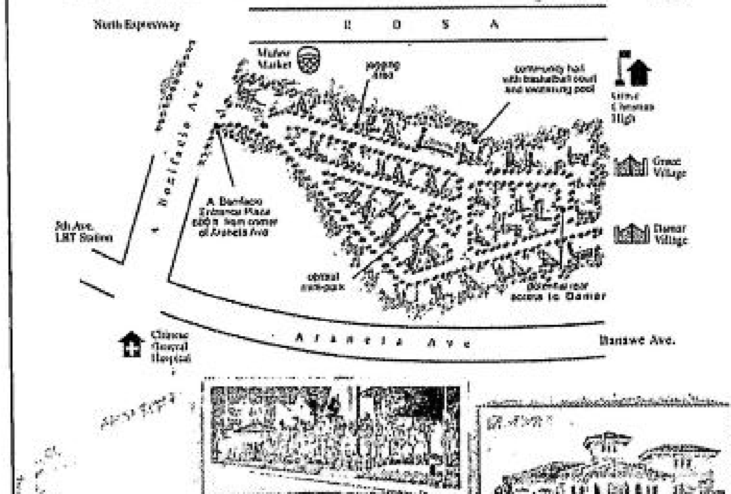

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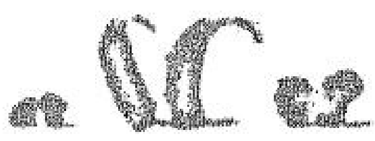

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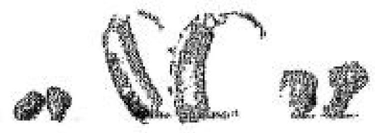

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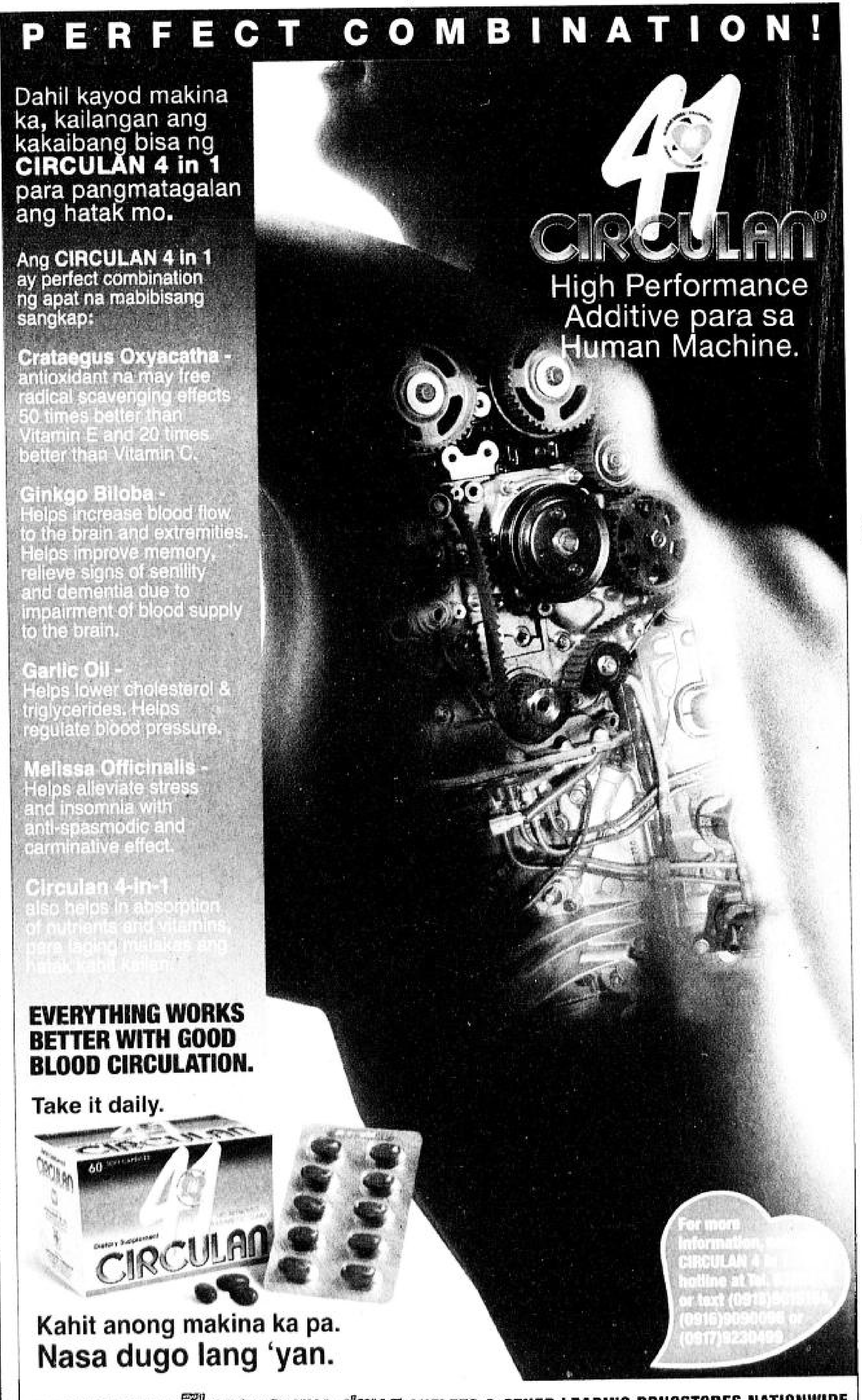

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Military finds top Abu's body

SOLDIERS recovered the remains of Abu Sayyaf leader Mujib Susukan on Saturday, confirming that he had died after a clash with government troops earlier this week, military officials said.

The body of Susukan, the "provincial commander" of the Abu Sayyaf, was exhumed from a shallow grave in Talipao town in Sulu by soldiers following a tip from villagers, said officials who asked not to be named.

Susukan was reportedly wounded in the clash on Tuesday that left three soldiers and 10 Abu Sayyaf guerrillas dead. He was carried from the scene by conscripted villagers but reportedly died from his wounds later.

Soldiers familiar with Susukan said they recognized the body but would transport it to military headquarters in Zamboanga City for confirmation.

Susukan had a P5-million prize on his head. He was reportedly involved in the kidnapping of 21 foreign and local tourists from Sipadan, Malaysia, in 2000 and the abduction of two Spanish missionaries, a Taiwanese trader and three Hong Kong fishery workers in previous years.

Also yesterday, the military reported the recovery of six bodies believed to be those of Abu Sayyaf bandits killed in a firefight in Patikul, Sulu, earlier this month.

A belated report reaching Camp Aguinaldo said the bodies were retrieved in Barangay Panlayahaan in Patikul on Wednesday by members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 6.

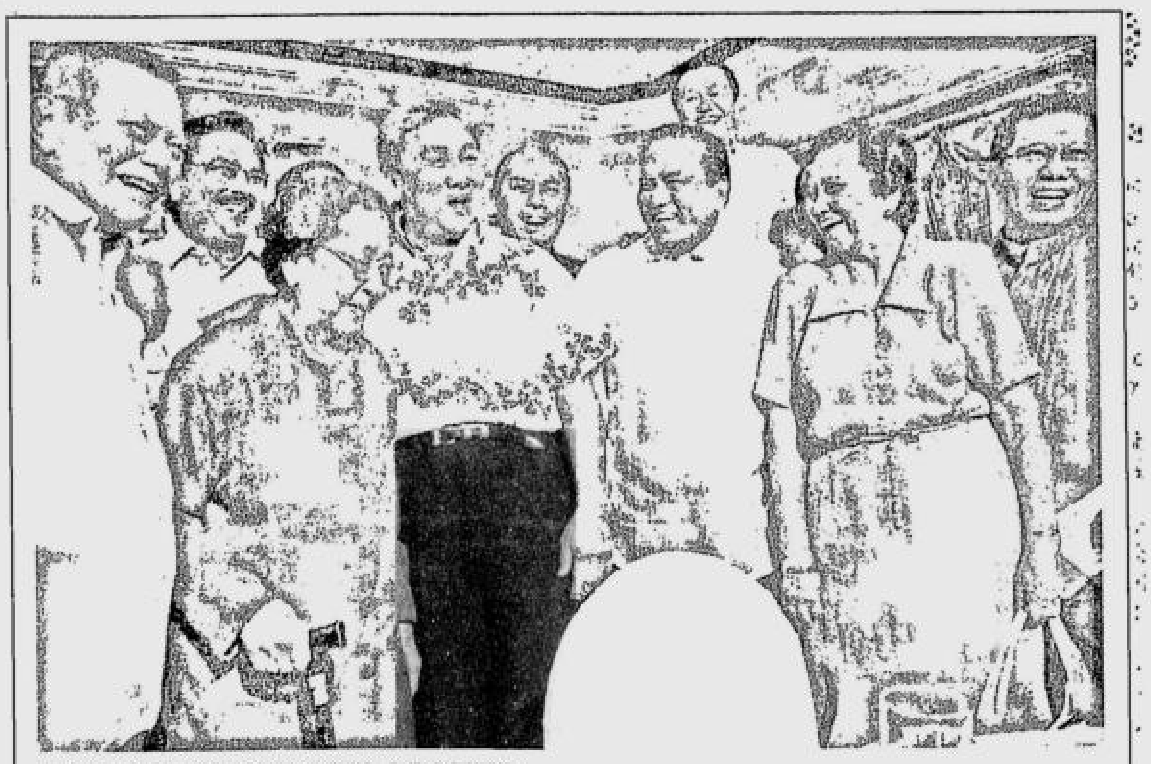
The report said the bodies had been buried by their fleeing comrades after an encounter with the military on Feb. 2.

Authorities failed to establish the identities of the victims as the bodies were in an advanced stage of decomposition.

Police said a large number of Abu Sayyaf members had been spotted in Talipao following the reported death of Susukan.

Chief Supt. Acmad Omar, police chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, told reporters at Camp Crame that among those sighted were three Abu Sayyaf sub-commanders.

They were identified as Galib Andang, alias Commander Robot, Marjuli Udih, a cousin of Commander Nandi Udih and Sabri Isa. *Martin P. Marfil, with an AFP report*



HAIL, THE GANG'S STILL AROUND

OPPOSITION members of the Batasang Pambansa during the Marcos dictatorship got together at a testimonial luncheon yesterday, the second day of the 17th anniversary celebration of the first People Power revolt in 1986. They are, from left, former Vice President Salvador Laurel, former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, president of the 1987 Constitutional Commission Associate Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, sportsman Lito Puyat, former Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte, ex-Rep. Ding Tanjuatco, former Sen. Eva Estarda-Kalaw and ex-Defense Secretary Orly Mercado. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

2 Pinoys die in Japan sea mishap

TOKYO—Two Filipinos were killed and two South Koreans were missing Friday after their ship capsized in rough seas off a remote Japanese island, maritime authorities said.

The Japanese Coast Guard mobilized a rescue ship and plane after receiving a distress signal just after midnight from the Panamanian-registered cargo ship, Pendora, which was carrying 16 crew members and more than 2,000 logs.

The ship was found belly-up some 140 kilometers off Nita Daito island on Japan's southernmost prefecture Okinawa.

Another cargo ship passing nearby rescued 12 Filipino crew members drifting on an emergency raft, said Coast Guard spokesperson Takashi Nakamura.

He said the bodies of two Filipino crew members were later recovered while two South Koreans remained unaccounted for late Friday.

The 4,252-ton cargo ship had been en route to Minamata in southern Japan from the Solomon Islands.

The Coast Guard was still investigating why the ship capsized, but waves as high as five meters were reported in the area at the time, Nakamura said.

Stormy seas were believed to be responsible for another accident Thursday, when a Belize-registered fishing boat capsized off Kyushu, Japan's southern main island.

Two of the 28-member crew, died. Three others—two Chinese men and one Indonesian—were missing. The remaining 23 were rescued.

The Sol Fresh No. 606 left the South Korean port of Busan on Tuesday to fish for tuna in Pacific waters off the Solomon Islands. *AFP, AP*

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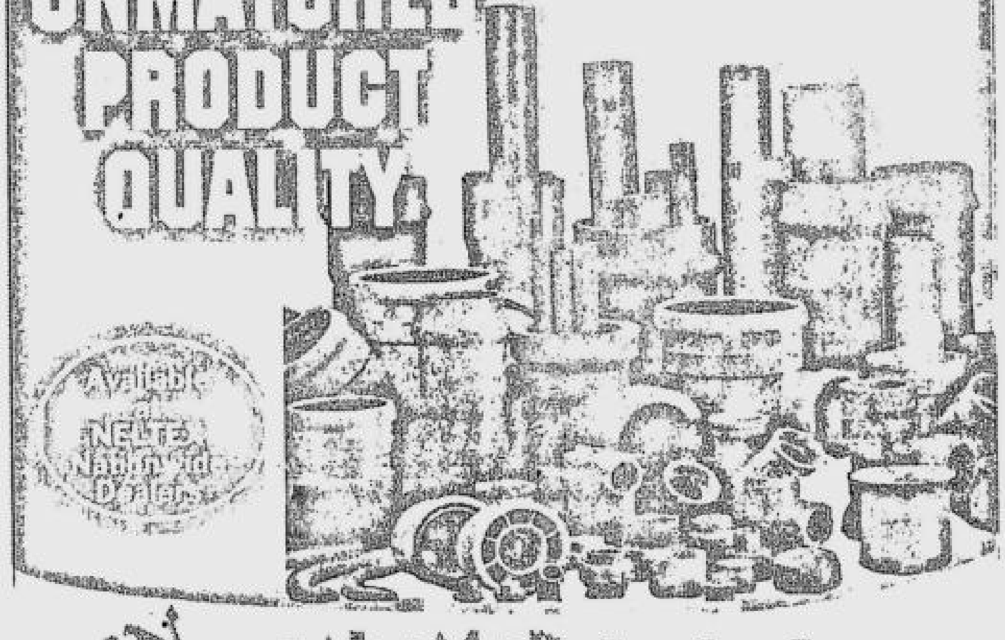

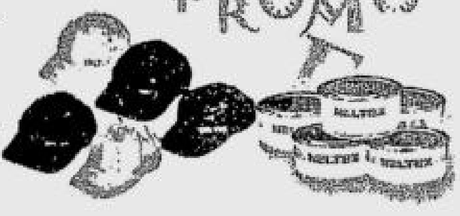

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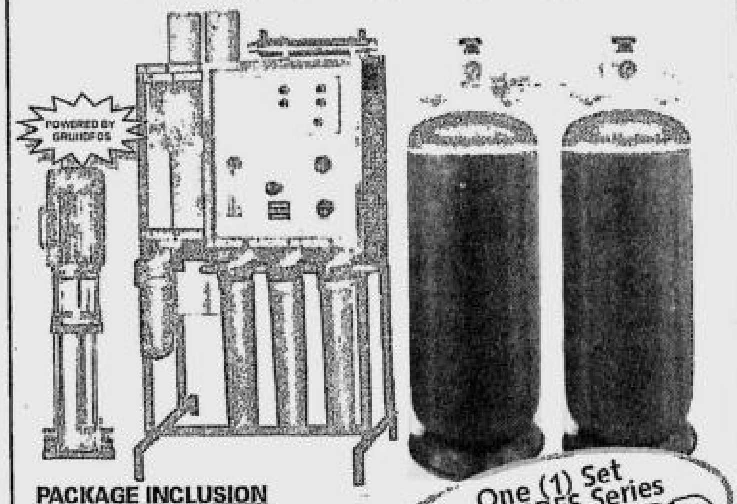

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GMA takes pro-US stand to NAM summit

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is flying to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this evening to attend the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit at which she is expected to deliver a speech on Monday.

NAM member-nations, mostly developing countries, are expected to condemn the United States threat to go to war against Iraq.

Earlier, Ms Macapagal dismissed speculations that she would be out of place at the conference because of her strong pro-US stance.

The President has echoed Washington's argument that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein should voluntarily disarm his nation of weapons of mass destruction or face a military assault.

On Wednesday, she reiterated that Saddam held the key to averting war, and the Iraqi leader must fully submit to United Nations arms inspection.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople will accompany the President to the NAM summit.

After the conference, Ms Macapagal will hold bilateral talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamad Mahathir.

She is expected to take up Malaysia's offer to once again facilitate the peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

The President is expected back early on Feb. 25, in time for the 17th anniversary of the first Edsa People Power revolt.

Trouble

In Kuala Lumpur yesterday, the 114-nation NAM ran into trouble in its attempts to formulate a united stand on the crises in Iraq and North Korea, which are both members, and agree on a definition of terrorism.

Senior officials failed to thresh out common positions in two days of talks and dumped the problems onto a meeting of foreign ministers who have to finalize statements on the issues ahead of a summit of leaders Monday and Tuesday.

On Iraq, several states, including Singapore, Chile, Kuwait and Indonesia, said a draft resolution leaned too much in favor of Baghdad and sought more pressure on the regime Hussein to comply with UN Resolution 1441 on disarmament.

"This is the only way out, the only way to achieve a peaceful resolution to this conflict. Unfortunately, Iraq is not complying fully and this is what is producing the tension in our region," said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Mohammad Alsalem Alsabah.

But Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri told reporters that Baghdad was cooperating with the UN inspection team and urged NAM states to use their oil and other resources to dissuade Washington from attacking.

"Third World countries have lots of means to stop the war. Oil and many other means can be used," he said.

The draft resolution presented by the Arab bloc wants NAM to "categorically reject the threats of unilateral use of force" and express "support and solidarity with Iraq vis-a-vis the possible aggression against it."

Singapore Foreign Minister S.Jaya-kumar told AFP: "We are in agreement with all the other countries on the need to avoid an armed conflict. Our concern over the current text is that it is not balanced. For example, it does not make any reference at all to Resolution 1441."

Despite the disputes, delegates say they expect a strong statement against any unilateral US attack on Iraq.

South African Foreign Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma told the opening session that while "Iraq must be disarmed if it possesses weapons of mass destruction," this should be done through the United Nations.

Uncertainty

Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that a world dominated by just one superpower "is pervaded by a profound sense of unease and uncertainty about the future.

"Today this state of affairs brings us to the brink of conflict—a conflict which the peoples of the world have loudly and clearly opposed," he said.

Malaysia is the incoming chairman of the movement, taking over from South Africa. *With an AFP report*

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Vote-sellers given reprieve to testify vs mayoral bet

FORTY-FOUR voters who admitted to having sold their votes during the May 1998 elections have been granted immunity from criminal prosecution by the Supreme Court.

In a landmark ruling, the high court said it was doing so so 44 voters could turn state witness and testify against a candidate for mayor in Imus, Cavite.

"One of the effective ways of preventing the commission of vote-buying and of prosecuting those committing it is the grant of immunity from criminal liability in favor of the party whose vote was bought," said the SC.

It said this would encourage others to come out and denounce culprits and ensure their successful prosecution.

The SC said that a free, orderly, honest, peaceful and credible election was indispensable in a democratic society.

"Election offenses, such as vote buying and vote-selling, are evils which prostitute the election process," it said.

"One who commits dishonesty... cannot be reasonably expected to adhere to the constitutional precept that a public office is a public trust," it said in a full-court unanimous decision written by Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. and promulgated on Feb. 17.

The high court granted the petition of the Commission on Elections to dismiss the criminal cases against the 44 witnesses and overturn the decision of the Imus Branch 20 Regional Trial Court.

The local trial court ruled in 2001 that it was premature to exempt the witnesses from criminal prosecution.

The case stemmed from a criminal case filed by losing mayoral candidate Florentino Bautista against the then incumbent Federico Poblete and 10 others for alleged vote-buying.

The case was filed in 1999 upon the recommendation of the Comelec law department, which had taken Bautista's side in his bid to unseat Poblete.

All 44 witnesses admitted that Poblete cheated in the 1998 mayoral elections, saying they were the "acceptors or recipients in the vote-buying activities of the accused."

Before the trial could start, however, the witnesses were charged with violation of the Omnibus Election Code.

The Comelec asked the court to suspend proceedings, saying that the 44 respondents were exempt from prosecution under the Electoral Reforms Law of 1987, or RA 6646, which grants immunity to those who voluntarily give information and willingly testify against vote-buyers. *Michael Lim Ubac*

Meet to tackle Asian housing problem

PUBLIC housing and how it could be more responsive to the needs of burgeoning Asian communities will be one of the main topics of discussion at the 70th annual national convention of the Philippine Institute of Architects (PIA) on Feb. 26-March 1.

The subject will be taken up by Prof. Ruslan Khalid of Malaysia and Tony Tan Keng Joo of Singapore. Khalid, former secretary general of the Eastern Regional Organization for Planning and Housing, will address the convention on Feb. 27, and Tan, chief architect of Singapore's Housing and Development Board, on March 1.

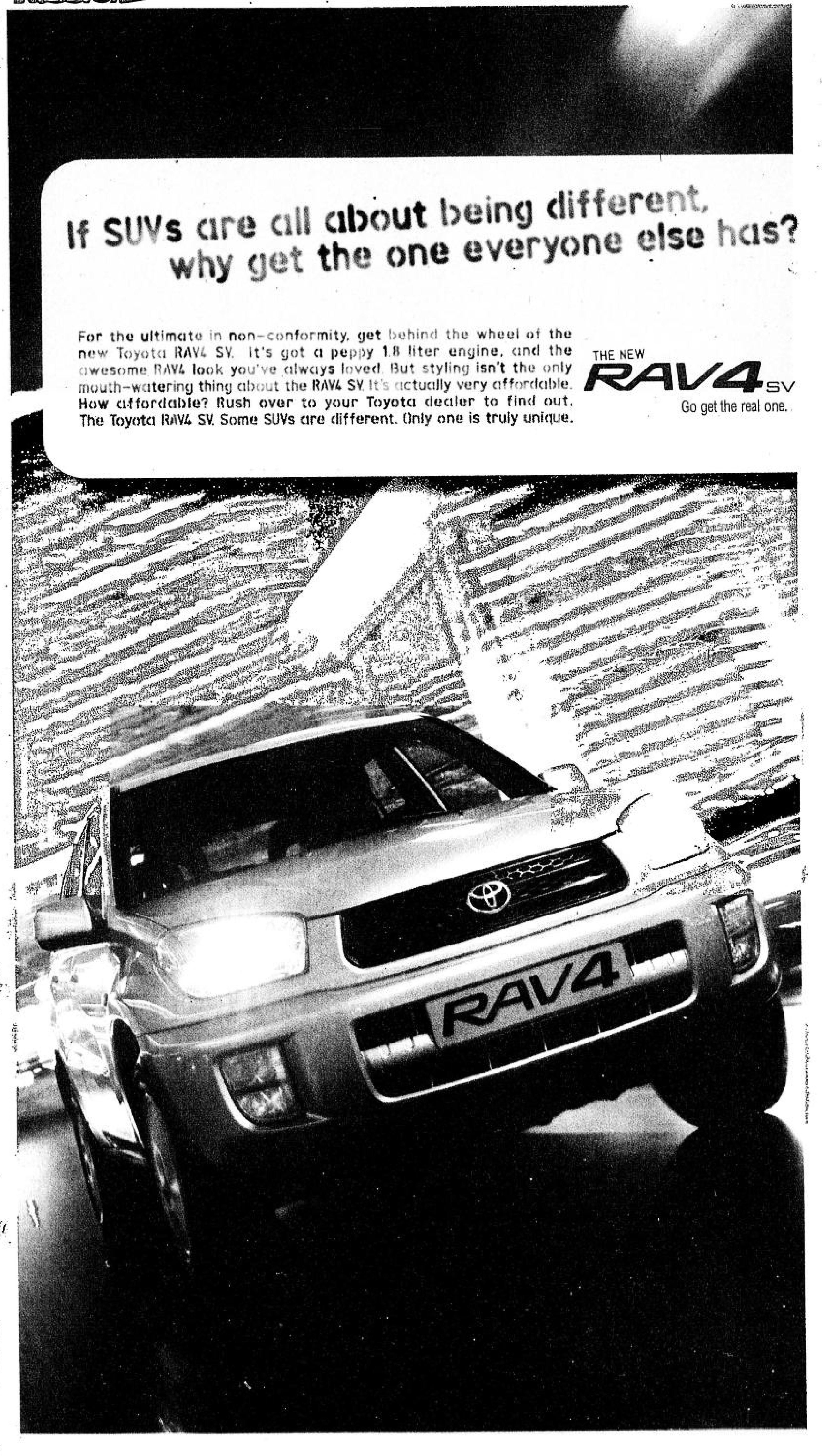
The PIA convention and trade exhibition will be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Tan is the head architect of Singapore's public housing units where 85 percent of that country's population now lives. He will outline the development of public housing there and the programs that contributed to its success, and will also present planning initiatives for new towns as well as renewal strategies for old towns.

Khalid will call on Asian architects to redirect their focus from "facadism" and state-of-the-art architecture toward the design of public housing in order to meet the challenge of the population explosion and discover the other facets of the architectural profession.

For architecture to be truly of service to mankind, he will underscore that "providing more appropriate living and working environments for the millions of ordinary folks deserves urgent professional intervention."

The PIA, led by its current national president Remigio G. Abella, FPIA, is the country's oldest professional group of architects. Convention chair is Nicomedes R. Pagulayan. For inquiries, call 634-1762/63 or 890-5318/19, or log on to www.piaarchitects.com.



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Make list of gangs, Ebdane orders cops

SMARTING from the recent dressing down given by the President herself, Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane yesterday signaled he will get tough on street crimes, initially ordering police intelligence units to make a comprehensive list of "leaders and personalities" of crime gangs.

At an unprecedented command conference in Malacañang on Thursday, President Macapagal berated the police brass for not doing enough to protect the public from thieves, muggers, rapists and assorted criminal elements prowling the streets.

The President called attention to the widespread perception that crime was on the rise and that the authorities were not effective in ensuring the safety of citizens and their property.

"To ensure that we achieve the marching orders to bring down street crime by 20 percent in the National Capital Region and Region VII, intelligence units must identify leaders and personalities of street crime gangs and crime-prone areas where they operate," Ebdane told Camp Crame reporters.

He said the PNP leadership would channel funds directly to station commanders in the hope the move would serve to improve efficiency at the grassroots level.

Ebdane had earlier ordered the deployment of at least 85 percent of law enforcers to the streets to enhance police presence. *Martin P. Marfil*

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Feb. 26-27	Design and Operation of a Water Refilling Station Business (*with field trip*)
Feb. 27-28	Catering Business Operation
Feb. 27-28	Organizing Party Funfare as a Business (with Balloon Decors)
Feb 28	Setting up a Travel Agency
March 1-2	Aromatic and Decorative Candle Making (*in cooperation with ITDI/DOST*)
March 1-2	How to Start and Manage Janitorial Services
March 1-4	Starting a Restaurant Business (*with field trip*)
March 3-4	Printing Press Business (*with field trip*)
March 4-5	How to Make Fashion Accessories (NEW)
March 5-7	Comprehensive Food and Beverage Services Course for Waiters, Bartenders and Stewards
March 5-7	Coconut Mini-Oil Milling and Refining (*in cooperation with ITDI/DOST*)
March 6-7	Decorative Metallic Paint Finishing for Novelty Items (NEW)
March 6-7	Therapeutic Massage (*Swedish Style*)
March 8-9	Accounting and Record Keeping for Small Businesses
March 8-9	Jewelry Appraisal and Pawnshop Operation
March 8-9	Laundry Soap and Detergents (*in cooperation with ITDI/DOST*)
March 8-10	Fresh Flower Arrangement and Flower Shop Operation and Management (*with field trip*)

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Feb. 28-March 1	Goat and Sheep Raising (*with field trip*)
March 1-3	Tilapia Culture (*with field trip*)
March 3-5	Layer Production (Table Egg) (*with field trip*)
March 3-5	Mango Production (with Improved Flower Induction) and Post-Harvest Handling and Storage Technology (*with field trip*)
March 7	Poultry Health Management (Broilers, Layers, Quails and Ducks)

Food Courses

Feb. 26	Flavored and Fortified Juice
Feb. 26-27	Basic Meat Processing
Feb. 27-March 2	Commercial Breadmaking and Bakery Management
March 3-4	Sorbetes (Commercial Production) (*with field trip*)
March 6-7	Specialty Cakes and Pastries
March 8-11	Commercial Breadmaking and Bakery Management

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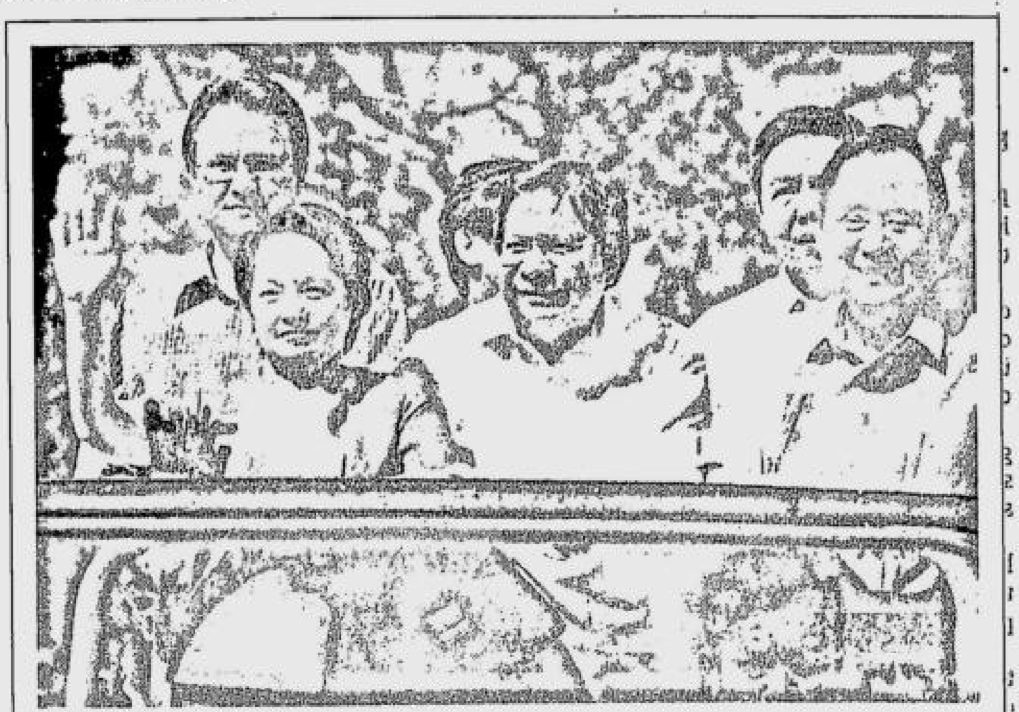

DOING THE WAVE
President Macapagal-Arroyo greets well-wishers during the inauguration of the Binalonan-Asingan Road in Pangasinan yesterday. Behind her are, from left, Rep. Mark Cojuangco, Mayor Ramon Guico Jr., Public Works Secretary Bayani Fernando and Speaker Jose de Venecia. VAL HANDUMON

Mindanao toll: 11 power towers

By Ronnel W. Domingo

RENEWED fighting between government troops and the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Central Mindanao has caused millions of pesos in losses from damage to transmission towers and widespread blackouts.

MILF retaliation for the military offensive on their strongholds have caused damage to 11 transmission towers in North Cotabato and the Lanao provinces, said Venusto Hamoy Jr., vice president for Visayas and Mindanao operations and maintenance of the National Transmission Corp..

Widespread blackouts

"The damage has cost Transco a total of P5 million to P6 million, but this does not include revenue losses," the official said.

Widespread blackouts continue to threaten Mindanao although electricity service had been restored in all affected areas as early as Thursday, Hamoy said.

"There is a threat of widespread blackouts as long as (the fighting) continues, especially if critical structures like tranmission towers are affected," he said.

Of the 11 damaged towers, seven were in North Cotabato and two each were in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur.

Hamoy said two towers were felled when the clashes started on Feb. 11.

No substitute

"Each tower costs P2 million. A new tower can be erected in between two and three weeks, but the procurement of the parts takes time," he said.

Hamoy said temporary lightweight towers were used to replace the downed towers, but these could not substitute for the strength of steel towers which can support 138-kilovolt cables.

Nine other towers suffered relatively minor damage such as missing legs.

Hamoy said the electricity supply was still sufficient as only the transmission lines and not the power plants had been affected.

Hamoy said the affected provinces accounted for an electricity demand totaling 27 megawatts, of which 9MW is represented by Cotabato City.

He said the Cotabato Light and Power Co. had a power facility that can generate 19 MW—not enough to meet the energy demand of the affected provinces, which rely on power transmissions from the Agus and Pulangui hydropower plants.

Hamoy appealed to the MILF, saying that "Transco is not the enemy of the MILF and civilians are ultimately the ones who suffer because of the transmission tower bombings."

DOLE

OWWA

ISANG PAALALA SA MGA OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) AT KANILANG PAMILYA

BATAY SA SURVEY NG ASSOCIATION OF BANK REMITTANCE OFFICERS, INC., ANG MGA **OFWs** NA NAGBABALAK NA MAGPADALA NG PERA SA KANILANG MGA PAMILYA DITO SA PILIPINAS AY PINAPAYUHANG MAGHANDA NG MGA SUMUSUNOD NA DOKUMENTO UPANG MATIYAK ANG MABILIS NA PAGPROSESO NG KANILANG REMITTANCE:

1. ***PASAPORTE O IDENTIFICATION CARD*** MULA SA KANILANG KUMPANYA
2. ***EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT O CERTIFICATE OF EMPLOYMENT AND COMPENSATION*** KUNG SAAN NAKASAAD NA SILA AY EMPLEYADO NG KUMPANYA AT ANG KANILANG KAUKULANG SAHOD
3. ***PROOF OF SOURCE OF INCOME*** TULAD NG PAYSLIP NG KANILANG BUWANANG SWELDO NA NILAGDAAN NG MGA KINAUUKULANG OPISYALES NG KUMPANYA
4. ***PERSONAL DATA*** **NG REMITTER (OFW)** NA MAY IMPORMASYON TULAD NG PANGALAN, TIRAHAN, EMPLOYER/KUMPANYA, ATBP.
5. ***PERSONAL DATA*** **NG BENEFICIARY** NA MAY IMPORMASYON GAYA NG PANGALAN NG BENEFICIARY, TIRAHAN, RELASYON SA REMITTER **(OFW)**, HANAP-BUHAY (KUNG MAYROON) ATBP.

ANG PAALALANG ITO AY ISANG SERBISYONG PUBLIKO NG DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) AT NG OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION (OWWA) SA PAKIKIPAG-UGNAYAN SA ASSOCIATION OF BANK REMITTANCE OFFICERS, INC. BILANG PAGHAHANDA KUNG SAKALI NA MANATILI ANG PILIPINAS SA "BLACKLIST" NG FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE (FATF).

ADVT.

Fernando to clean up DPWH of grime and graft

By Armand N. Nocum

PUBLIC Works Secretary Bayani Fernando is going all-out to literally clean up the image of the notoriously graft-ridden public works department.

Arguing that image says a lot about the character of an office and its services, Fernando has ordered all department employees to be in proper attire and follow an official dress code even when working in construction sites.

"Our employees should be models of good grooming because we do the design and construction of government facilities," Fernando said in a phone interview.

A contractor himself, Fernando said he was not happy at the sight of DPWH personnel, including those employed by contractors, working without proper uniforms or going around barefoot.

"They must be in proper clothes or uniform to reflect the good image of the DPWH in the construction industry," he said.

Upon assuming office, Fernando also ordered his men to stop the practice of spitting around the DPWH grounds and to spruce up their surroundings.

FERNANDO

"We have to see the improvements in our own facility that we may pass this on to our design and construction. We have to live it so that we can incorporate it in our designs," he said.

As for eliminating graft, he said he would subject everyone in the department to a "lifestyle check."

"I will form a special team to check on the lifestyle of everyone in this outfit," he said.

The investigating team is to be made up of "audit people, the resident ombudsman and some from the watchdog group."

"I will keep everyone under watch," he said of DPWH officials, many of whom are facing graft charges before the Ombudsman or the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court.

DPWH undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, regional directors, district engineers and foreign project managers are known to lead luxurious lives, far beyond their earning capacities.

Told about Fernando's policies, newly promoted Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto said the reform measures would infuse life into an old agency.

"Image is everything," he said.

Barbers, sons to quit Lakas if sanctioned

SEN. Robert Barbers yesterday said he would resign from the Lakas party along with 50 congressmen if sanctions were imposed against them for signing a petition urging businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to run for president in the 2004 elections.

Barbers said the petition was a mere expression of the congressmen's belief in the "proven capability" and "outstanding leadership quality and traits" of Cojuangco, president of the Nationalist People's Coalition.

He said there was nothing wrong with professing admiration for the head of another party, especially if he had the qualifications that could ensure victory for the administration coalition.

If he were asked, Barbers added, he would also say that Cojuangco was as qualified as the other "presidentiables" in Lakas.

The petition, he stressed, was not meant to politicize the party, as earlier claimed by Lakas executive director Jose Rufino.

The senator believed there was "no logic" in sanctioning the 50 pro-Danding congressmen. But should this happen just the same, he said, he would bolt the party along with his two sons, Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers and Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers. *Cynthia D. Balana*

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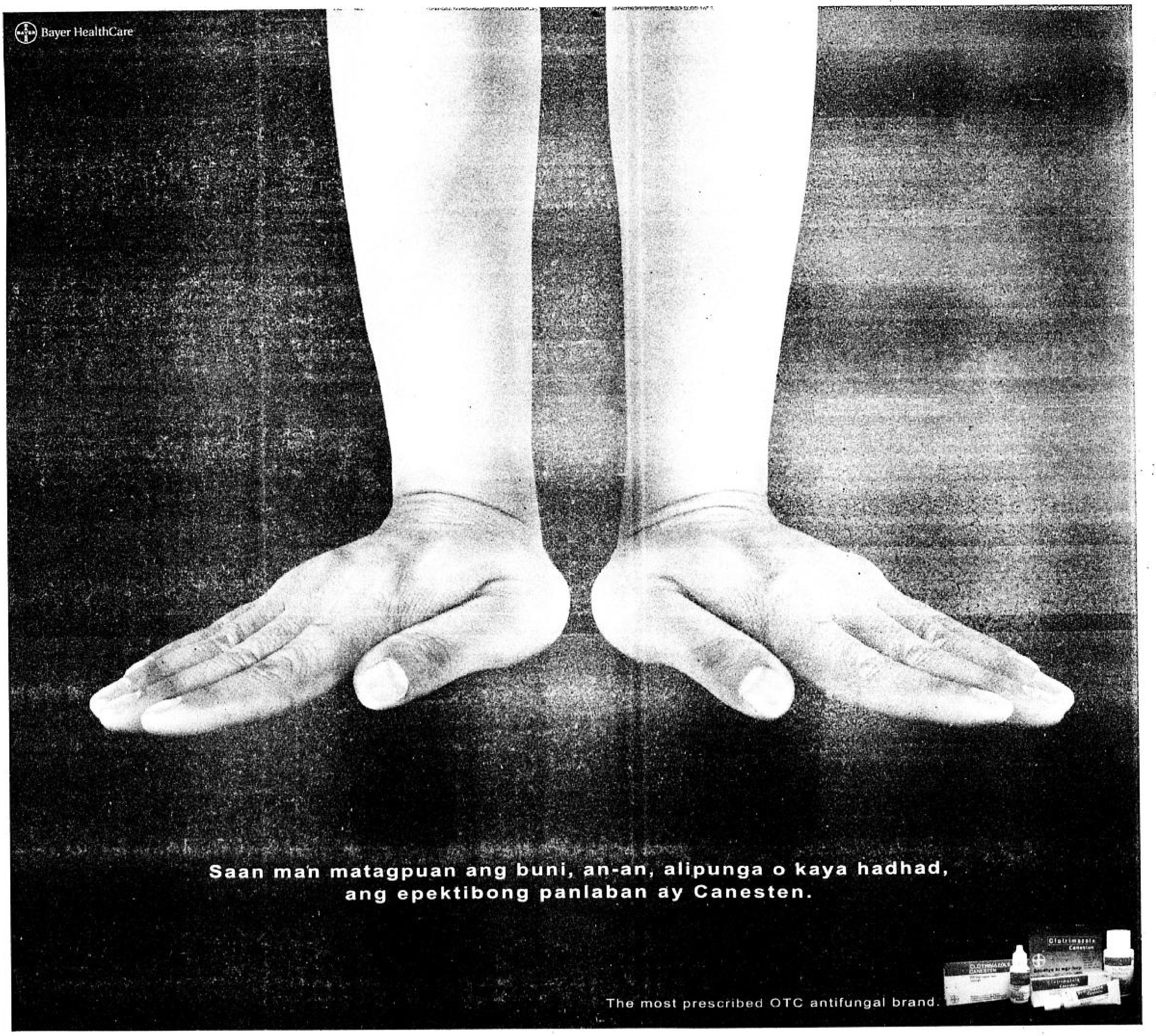
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Cowboys

EDITORIALS

THE DISCLOSURE by Pentagon officials that the United States was sending combat troops to Sulu to fight the Abu Sayyaf can mean only one thing: The cowboys in the White House will wage their war on terror any which way they want, and the rest of the world, their so-called allies included, be damned.

One US official said the Bush administration was led to make the disclosure in part because Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye had, as the New York Times report put it, "mischaracterized the scope of an operation that had already been agreed upon in private."

In other words, the White House—and the US Defense Department under tell-it-as-it-is Secretary Donald Rumsfeld—has rounded up a posse, and it is time to ride. The niceties of international relations are only so much baggage, best left behind.

"The Bush folks are big on attitude, weak on strategy and terrible at diplomacy." This isn't a quote from the usual suspects on the left, but from a mainstream American source: New York Times international affairs columnist Thomas Friedman. He was writing about the failure of the Bush administration to win wider international backing for a preemptive war on Iraq. "I side with those who believe we need to confront Saddam—but we have to do it right, with allies and staying power, and the Bush team has bungled that." And again: "two years of their gratuitous bullying has made many people deaf to America's arguments."

The Pentagon disclosure is only the latest confirmation that, indeed, the Ugly American is back: loud, self-absorbed, a gratuitous bully but this time wearing a ten-gallon hat. It shows that the White House's unilateral trashing of the Kyoto Protocol, an environmental milestone, was no fluke. It proves that the Bush administration's abandonment of post-Taliban Afghanistan (total amount of money the White House allotted for Afghan reconstruction: zero) was part of a pattern. And so on, ad nauseam.

Now we have the Sulu operation. The United States has long wanted to open a second front in the war on terror, and this time the Americans are making sure they get it. "The Philippines have *(sic)* a terrorist problem and we have offered our assistance," a senior Pentagon official said. This statement is about as forthcoming as it is grammatical. "This is an actual combined operation, and it is US forces accompanying and actively participating in Philippine-led offensive operations," the official said. Now the word "led" cannot but be misleading. The notion that a prickly United States will allow its forces to be under Philippine command (and what does "led" mean but that) is laughable. Perhaps the folks at the Pentagon don't think Filipinos can parse English.

The truth is, US worries about the reported link-up between the Abu Sayyaf and the militant Jemaah Islamiyah have caused the cowboys in the White House to throw caution out Abraham Lincoln's window. Deploying 750 US troops in Sulu and another 1,000 Marines aboard amphibious assault ships off the island of Jolo, and then leaking the news in a way that pulls the rug from under the Macapagal administration's feet, is to send an unambiguous message to its allies here and around the world: If you can't solve a problem, we'll do it for you, regardless of what you think, or how you will explain it away.

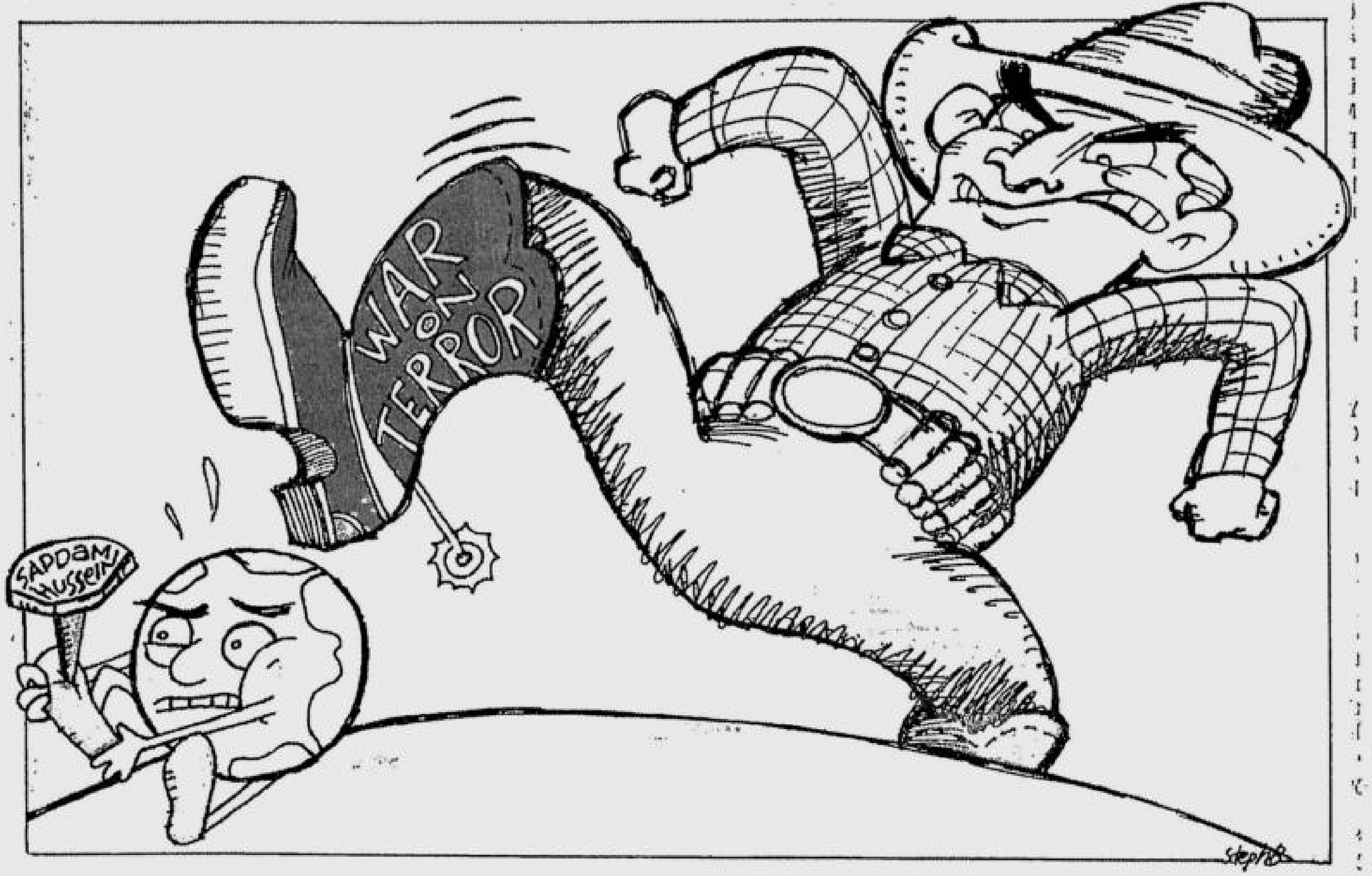
And Indians

IT isn't only the image of the Ugly American that has come back to haunt us. There is also the image of the Filipino as Little Brown Brother.

An entire brood did an awkward dance last Friday, denying the Pentagon disclosure. "American soldiers will not engage in offensive operations against the Abu Sayyaf," Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye insisted late Friday afternoon. "They will only fire back in self-defense." He added: "We are not concerned about what they (Pentagon officials) think. I don't want to speculate on what caused this wrong information."

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes did an Artful Dodger. "What they have in Washington are leaks, and I'd rather not comment on leaks," Reyes said. "I am categorically saying that anything they say that contravenes the Constitution and the laws will not materialize," he also said.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople followed the same routine. "This is a continuation of the Balikatan exercise held in Basilan except that it is now in Sulu," he said. "It is still basically a training exercise between the two forces under the Visiting Forces Agreement." Right, and Ople doesn't smoke.



Quoting Father Bernas

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IN A LETTER to our editor published last Feb. 20, Fr. Joaquin Bernas said I was barking up the wrong tree for criticizing his stand, along with that of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Secretary Blas F. Ople, justifying the Overseas Absentee Voting Act. He wonders where I got my information as he says he never said the things attributed to him in my column of Feb. 18.

That article was based on a two-column news item published in this paper on Page A2 (the "second front page") of its Feb. 11 issue titled "Nene says emigrant vote constitutional" and written by Cynthia D. Balana.

The report said among others that:

"Sen. Aquilino 'Nene' Pimentel said there should be no doubt anymore about enfranchising emigrants to vote after two members of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution declared that it was the intent of the framers not to deprive departing Filipinos of their right to vote unless they renounced Philippine citizenship.

"Constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas and Foreign Secretary Blas Ople have affirmed that granting emigrants the right to vote was constitutional, according to Pimentel, one of the principal authors of the absentee voting bill."

"Pimentel quoted Bernas as saying that the grant of the right to vote to emigrants was valid since the affidavit (pledging their return for permanent residence in the Philippines) would indicate that the emigrant had not applied for citizenship in another country."

"On whether the execution of such an affidavit conclusively settles the voting right of an emigrant, Bernas said: 'I would say that, unless successfully challenged in an exclusion proceeding before a competent court, the person must be allowed to vote.'"

"'With the authoritative views of Fr. Bernas and Secretary Ople that there is no constitutional impediment to the absentee voting right of emigrants, it can be safely concluded that this issue is moot and academic.' Pimentel said."

"Bernas was further quoted as saying that the Constitution has dispensed with the six-month residence requirement in the case of Filipinos abroad still domiciled in the Philippines."

It's difficult to imagine that Father Bernas never read this important item about him, where he is called a constitutionalist and quoted extensively. If he missed that particular issue, it's also remarkable that none of his parishioners and students had the thoughtfulness to call his attention to the report and even clip it for him.

In any case, I waited for Father Bernas to distance himself from the report, but he did not. As he did not deny it, I assumed it was true and so used it as a basis for the column I wrote for Feb. 16. That was five days after the publication of the news item Father Bernas now questions.

I can't at the moment recall where I read the argument of Bernas and Ople that immigrants were not intended to be covered by the residence qualification prescribed by the Constitution. But the fact that they also did not earlier deny that report either lends credence to its accuracy.

Truth to tell, I was rather hoping Father Bernas would disclaim his reported support for the absentee voting law, given his prestigious and influential role in the framing of the present Constitution. I was disappointed when he did not do so and in effect sided with the defenders of the dubious measure.

Interestingly, Secretary Ople, who is cited with Bernas as also supporting the new law, has also not issued his own denial.

Opponents of the Overseas Absentee Voting Act will be happy to know that Romulo B. Macalintal, one of our top election lawyers, has filed a petition with the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of the law on several grounds, including the pre-qualification of Filipino immigrants on the strength only of their sworn promise to return to the Philippines as permanent residents within three years. Macalintal's lawyers are two other recognized experts in election law, Pete Quirino Quadra and Sixto S. Brillantes Jr.

Not being a lawyer, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the measure into law probably without realizing its serious flaws. Perhaps she intended to please the legislators who wanted to see the measure approved for reasons of their own although they said it was for the benefit of our 7.5 million overseas workers.

I submit it was the duty of the President's lawyers, particularly presidential legal adviser Avelino Cruz, Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong and Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, to warn her of the possible defects of the controversial measure that needed at least a more careful study. The objections were widespread enough as not to escape her counsel's notice. Instead, she hastily approved it with the usual fanfare.

Considering the importance of the issues raised in Macalintal's petition, I hope the Supreme Court will not resort to another of its usual cop-outs and dismiss the case on this or that technicality. This is a convenient way of avoiding work or, in this particular case, possibly having to antagonize the political departments responsible for the challenged law.

I remember, for example, how the high tribunal invoked technical grounds to avoid ruling on the constitutionality of the *zona* and; more recently, Mayor Lim's spray paint warnings on the houses of convicted and even only suspected drug pushers.

With all due respect, Your Honors, show some backbone this time and let the chips fall where they may.

Helpful and helpless

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I HAVE a text mate by the name of Belen. What makes her special is that she is blind. Her determination is really amazing. Obviously she needs others to read her incoming text messages, but, she insists on composing her outgoing text message.

* * *

The determination of the paralytic and his friends or relatives in today's Gospel (Mk. 2,1-12) is also amazing. They overcame all the obstacles to make sure that their loved one was healed by Jesus, opening the roof of the house where Jesus was healing so that he could heal him. They literally went out of their way to help someone who was helpless. How far would you go out of your way just to help someone in need? How far are you willing to reach out to those in need?

* * *

Many of us in fact, have a heart willing to help. However, our desire to help is often conditional ("I will help if..." or, "I will help, but..."), ("I will help only 3x a day."). And sometimes, our helping is with an agenda ("I will help in order that..."). May we all learn that true help (*tulong*) is selfless and should be given with only the good of the other in mind.

* * *

What did the friends of the paralytic want to get for him? Healing, of course. But do you notice that is not what Jesus did right away? Instead he said, "Have courage, your sins are forgiven." He looked right into the heart of the man and saw what he really needed but most likely could not express. He must have had sins there nobody knew of, along with a deep longing for forgiveness. I sometimes think that helping him to walk again was the easy part. The paralytic was so overjoyed to be rid of the burden of his sins that he had the desire to get up and walk again. Life was truly worth living once more. Think of that when you complain that God does not give you what you want, and notice instead how he gives you what you truly need.

* * *

When you care for your sick family members, do you ask what they really need or do you impose on them what you think they need?

A fortune is spent on expensive hospital equipment, which sometimes do little to help the patients. But have we called the priest to minister the sacraments to them? In good time, not at the last moment when they can hardly respond anymore! We spend money on them, but how about time? Do we listen to them, pray with them and simply be with them?

Lord, show me what this person really needs and let more not be discouraged if it seems so difficult.

* * *

If you have people in your life who would really go out of their way to help you, then blessed are you. Consider yourself lucky that there are people who have genuine concern, care and love for you. Today, thank God for them, and thank them.

* * *

Have you ever experienced helplessness? We all have experienced helplessness when we were infants, and sooner or later, when we grow old.

It is all right to be helpless. However, there are some people who think they are so big and strong that they refuse to be helped. They think that being helped is a sign of weakness. They think that they should always be in control. They can help, but they are not comfortable with being helped. It is not enough to minister. You too, must allow yourself to be ministered to.

* * *

The song "People" by Barbara Streisand says it all: "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world. We're children, needing other children, yet funny how grown-up pride, hide all the tears inside, acting more like children than children...so first be a person who needs people." Something like that. The message is clear: It's all right to need people. It's all right to be helpless. Welcome to the human race.

* * *

The paralytic was healed because an opening was made in the roof. All that God needs is a little "opening," and he will heal us. Let us never close our doors. Let us not harden our hearts. Grace will operate in our lives, but we must cooperate.

* * *

When you reach out to God in helplessness and in desperation saying, "Lord, help me. I need you. There's no one else to help me but you. I surrender everything to you. Without you I can do nothing. Please Lord!"—then you know what praying is all about.

* * *

Let's continue to pray and work for peace in the world. Prayers can stop the war in Iraq. Nothing is impossible. Pray much. Pray on. Pray helpless.

* * *

The Immaculate Conception School of Theology, the Regional Seminary of Northern Luzon is celebrating the 50th year of its transfer from the poblacion of Vigan to its present location in Barangay Pantay Daya. There was a grand alumni homecoming last Feb. 17-18 attended by many priests and bishops. For some time, the SVDs were part of the seminary formation team. Congratulations to the ICST. May this seminary continue to provide quality and integral formation so that many more good priests and bishops will come forth from its portals.

* * *

A moment with the Lord

Lord, help me to help others. Help me too, to be helpless to others. Amen.

Youth and the Church

COMMENTARY

Melanie P. Ramos
Institute on Church and Social Issues

MOST of those who serve in the parishes are old people. Many of them are elderly ladies in their twilight years assisting as Mother Butlers, ushers and collectors in the various church activities. A number of elderly gentlemen are also visible serving as Special Ministers in daily and Sunday Masses and leading prayer meetings. While some parishes may have young people who participate in parish programs, they are considered the blessed few who have active and vibrant youth ministries.

Why are there fewer young people involved in church celebrations, traditions and programs? Does this indicate that our Filipino youth do not bother with religion and do not believe in God? How does the Filipino youth see the Church and their faith?

According to the National Filipino Catholic Youth Survey 2002 (NFCYS) conducted by the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on the Youth, many of our young people are nominal Catholics—44.9 percent seldom practice their faith and 3.8 percent never did. Indeed, our young Catholics are not unlike their adult counterparts. Though more than half (53.1 percent) of those surveyed said that they resort to prayer in dealing with their problems, participation in church-related activities does not really interest them. "The youth live their faith as individuals, but they miss the communitarian dimension of faith because they participate very seldom in church activities." This leads us now to ask: How deeply does the Catholic faith influence the Filipino Catholic youth's lifestyle?

The NFCYS 2002 maintained that the Church should be alarmed at how the Catholic Filipino youth perceive God, the Church and their faith. Our young people seem to have less intimate relationships with God. While God is seen as a parent (33.1 percent) and a provider who bestows blessings (29.7 percent), this view may be quite superficial. God is seen as a gratifier of wants and needs, rather than a friend with whom one shares his deepest personal longings and aspirations.

The Filipino Catholic youth, while personal in their faith (as evidenced by their resorting to prayer when faced with problems) are still individualistic. They do not see the Church as a community of believers, but as a structural entity—a building where one goes to pray. Furthermore, the survey said that the Catholic youth are "distant from the Church's teachings and life and decreasing in their appreciation of the Sacraments."

The youth said that they don't involve themselves in Church activities because of the many pressures in their lives. Some of them (44.8 percent) study, while others (35.2 percent) have to work. Still, there are those (12.4 percent) who say that their parents object to their involvement with the Church and that joining Church organizations has no special appeal to them (12.4 percent).

The decrease in the involvement of the youth in the Church is indeed a cause for concern for the Catholic hierarchy. The Youth Study conducted by NFO-Trends in 2001 corroborates the CBCP survey stating that, "Catholic membership may decrease in the next generation... Fewer youths affiliate themselves with the Catholic Church..." The establishment and strengthening of Catholic youth ministries and organizations in the parishes, where young people can be nurtured in their faith, is crucial to the future of Catholicism in the Philippines.

There is a great deal of work to be done by parish priests and lay people who are already active in their service to the Church. With many young people involved in drugs, criminality and other vices, it is evident that they need to be guided, not only in terms of their values, but also in their faith. In order for them to understand and bear witness to their faith, they need good examples to emulate. For how can the youth believe in God, when they see so much "godlessness" in the people around them? Corruption and crime are everywhere and much of it is performed by people whom the youth esteem as their models.

Many young hearts need to be converted and many young faiths need to be strengthened. Indeed, the challenge for the Catholic Church and the many Christians in this country is immense. A new strategy needs to be developed to animate the youth and bring them back to the fold. A strategy which includes helping our young people understand their faith through basic Catechism; helping them witness to their faith by providing them good Christian models to follow; supporting the family for this is where the youth first learns about God; inspiring the youth to serve the Church—making them not only feel they belong to the Church, but they are the Church; and instilling in them the love for the Gospels and Sacraments.

Christian life is indeed a struggle not only for the youth, but also for all Catholics trying to understand and live their faith. The Church is currently experiencing many problems, which makes it harder to entice Christians to worship God. But while there are many challenges for the Church to face, as long as there are hearts whose main desire is to love and sincerely serve, nothing is insurmountable.

War triggers trafficking

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S the second part of the reaction talk that Jowel Canuday delivered as part of a symposium on Trafficking of Women sponsored by Xavier University. The symposium was held as part of the university's Social Consciousness Week.

Jowel is also a graduate student in anthropology at Xavier, aside from working as a reporter for MindaNews. He used to be a correspondent for this paper.

* * *

IF relatively peaceful areas suffer from underdevelopment and lack of economic opportunities, how much more (dire is the situation) of areas affected by the armed conflict?

It is in these areas, particularly in Maguindanao, where one of the better-known survivors of trafficking came from. Many of us followed the story of Sarah Balabagan, the young Moro teenager who at 16 years old was trafficked into the United Arab Emirates where she worked as a domestic helper. A minor, an innocent and an illegal overseas contract worker, Sarah was highly vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse in the household of her employer. Indeed, her nightmare happened. She was sexually abused by her master but on the night she was raped, she fought back and killed him in self-defense.

Sarah Balabagan was arrested, jailed, judged guilty of murder and sentenced to die in the gallows. But (the) massive public outcry moved our diplomats to work out ways to (repatriate) her from the UAE. She was redeemed but hers is an exceptional case. Many of those trafficked and even those with legal working papers who were forced to find work abroad due to lack of economic opportunities here have come home in a box.

* * *

DESPITE the dangers of trafficking, the number of OFWs in the ARMM has steadily increased within a four-year period from 158 in 1998 to 210 in 2001, according to records gathered from the POEA by the Coalition Against Trafficking in women-Asia.

International migration has been the anchor of trafficking, not only for labor, but for sex as well, according to observations culled by the Coalition.

The communities ravaged by war are the same areas where opportunities—economic, educational, political, what have you—are almost nil. These areas are among the poorest provinces in the country and the most neglected, according to the United Nations Human Development Index a few years back.

In areas with almost nil opportunities, as in most of the rural areas in the country, migration to the cities and eventually abroad is inevitable. But (countless are the) heartbreaking stories of blight, which these families have encountered in urban areas... As the migrating rural families squeeze their way into impoverished and congested shanties in the cities, they realize that their nightmares are far from over. It is here where many of the women, in desperation, are forced to scrounge for work. Without adequate skills for jobs being demanded in the city, they are forced to accept lowly paid menial jobs with slave-like work load or into the sexually exploitative world of prostitution.

A 2002 study conducted by the Coalition Against Trafficking in women in Asia, noted that out of the 49 respondents they managed to convince to share (stories of) their ordeal, 38 or the majority of the women revealed that they came from the rural areas. All of them are from financially handicapped families whose parents had little education. A number of them, too have been sexually abused by a friend, a neighbor, an uncle, a brother or their own father. Their traumatic experience, worsened by poverty and poor education, expose them to the dangers of trafficking.

* * *

IF (women in) impoverished areas not affected by armed conflict on the scale that we see in Central Mindanao, the ARMM and in other war-affected regions of the country, are vulnerable to the hazards of migration and eventually of trafficking, just imagine how it is to live and survive in communities that are in perpetual state of war.

Wars obviously double the burden of impoverished people, especially of women. Yet, there are few studies of women who were forced into migration as a consequence of war. Perhaps this is a challenge for us in the academe and in journalism.

War is a nightmare but as we look into the hardships of the evacuees who journeyed and survived it, we would see that it does not (always) end in a nightmare. The violence has gone on through the decades in the battlefields and in the cities where poverty and lack of opportunities push the women and children of war into the hands of the traffickers. The nightmares have actually turned into horrors.

Now, has the government won the war in Pikit? Perhaps the answer requires another question and that is: Did this war boost our capacity and resources to conquer poverty, the lack of economic and livelihood opportunities? Or did it sap the meager resources that would have been put to better use fighting these age-old structural problems?

But I guess the challenge for all of us, who are anxious (to put a stop to) sexual and labor exploitation in the migration process, is to ask and learn more about the history and the reality of the wars on our island, and its dire consequences. As we get (better) informed and aware, we hope to find the time and the strength to share this with others. As political pundits would say, an informed citizenry has the power to shape and reject destructive government policies. To this end, the informed and involved people will play critical roles in trampling the hawkish policies of our government and military leaders. Then, we will have more elbowroom to conquer the conditions that have forced our women and children to their nightmare journeys.

Globalizing the Mindanao conflict

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WHAT the government is doing in Mindanao and the rest of the country is finally becoming clear. To put it bluntly, the Philippine government is trying to put an end to the Moro rebellion, the communist insurgency and the mass poverty that breeds them, by riding piggyback on the American war on global terrorism. We are freeloading on the American people's grief, and conniving with their reckless leaders to paint a world engulfed by terrorism in order to justify an immoral war.

The global war on terror, morally validated and emotionally driven by the indignation over Sept. 11, is America's best-funded crusade today. By projecting our little corner of the world as a mini-Afghanistan, our leaders are hoping to access a portion of the billions of dollars being poured into this war. America indulges us not only because of its desperate quest for allies but also because it is trapped in its own rhetoric that, though it has multiple sites, terrorism is a unified menace and must be fought globally.

Yet, no matter how desperately we try to become part of America's crusade, the reality is that we are not Pakistan, whose strategic value for the United States in relation to Afghanistan earned for it a couple of billions in aid. Neither are we Turkey, whose proximity to Iraq and suitability as a staging platform for a US invasion also merited for it a massive infusion of American military and development assistance. Thus, we have received nothing but pledges. Now in a bid to bolster our role as George W. Bush's cheering squad of one in Southeast Asia, we have also made ourselves available as America's training camp and testing ground for its combat troops and new war equipment.

Under the legal cover of the Visiting Forces Agreement, we are offering our Iraq-bound friends controlled battlefields with live targets and real-life situations. We are giving them permission to go after real terrorists, as well as hone their skills in community immersion and rehabilitation. Yesterday it was Basilan; today it is Sulu. Tomorrow, it may be North Cotabato and Lanao del Sur. Later, it could be any hot spot in the country where communist rebels operate—all in the name of a collaborative war against terrorism. This seems to be the scenario. America won't ever require permanent bases again; all they need is the open-ended script of continuing joint military exercises.

That our leaders can foist this upon the nation with impunity is disturbing. Clearly, something happened to our national psyche after Marcos. Not even in their wildest imagination would any of our leaders after 1946 have thought of fielding American soldiers, supposedly here on military exercise, in actual areas of conflict where they would eventually be forced to assume combat roles. Not only does this violate the Constitution, but more important, it erodes self-respect. Filipino communists and Mindanao's Moros are not foreign enemies. They are among this country's peoples, though some may wish to live outside the present social order. To invite foreign troops to fight them is not only cowardly; it is to betray the nation.

There is no denying that our people are tired of these little festering wars, and sick of the way in which our politicians and generals have mismanaged and exploited them. The image of a ragtag group of less than a hundred mosquito bandits, thumbing their nose at an ill-equipped military, is exasperating. The rumor that this same Abu Sayyaf group routinely splits its ransom take with corrupt military officers and politicians is galling. Today, a majority of our people would probably not mind it if Americans came in to finish a job that we cannot seem to handle ourselves. This is the same feeling we had during martial law when not a few wished the CIA would assassinate Marcos and rescue the country from his malignant rule.

But this is not only irresponsible; it is also, even from a pragmatic view, a high-risk and unnecessary gambit. When we project Mindanao as a theater of the global anti-terrorist war, we are giving a false picture of the country that alarms local and foreign investors and tourists. It sows panic and distrust among our own people. It privileges military solutions over peaceful negotiations. But even more important, to allow foreign troops to fight on our soil is to expose ourselves to the real danger of ultimately losing control over the management of our own peace and order problems. These internal conflicts, which mark the historical fault lines of our young nation, could fuse under pressure from foreign intervention and explode into a full-blown civil war that we would not wish upon our children.

We have nothing to gain in the long run from playing the role of parasite to a foreign power bent on world domination. In the short haul, it may solve the budgetary problems of an administration. It may even carve a political career for some generals and ambitious politicians. But if our recent past is a guide, it should tell us in very clear terms what dependence on outside powers has done to us. It has prevented us from looking inward and developing our own resources and energies. It has destroyed our confidence in ourselves. It has prolonged our birthing as a nation.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Ten worst living dictators

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—At the height of his power, Ferdinand Marcos was reaping medals from Amnesty International and other international human rights organizations for brutality, greed and repression. Parade Magazine tagged him as one of the world's worst leaders in the '70s and the Guinness Book of World Records called him the "world's greatest thief.".

Seventeen years after Marcos' overthrow this month, other dictators have survived and continue their tyrannical rule with impunity. One, Saddam Hussein, continues to bedevil the world, most particularly US President George W. Bush, who has become truly obsessed with ousting Saddam at whatever cost.

The same Parade Magazine has assigned one of its contributing editors, David Wallechinsky, to identify the current "10 Worst Living Dictators." He enlisted the support of independent human rights organizations that are willing to expose both right- and left-wing regimes, such as Freedom House and Amnesty International. Wallechinsky's criteria for "worst" include the suppression of freedom of speech and religion, freedom to choose elected representatives and to disagree with government, and the right to a fair trial. He gave "extra credit" to dictators who torture their prisoners, execute political opponents, starve citizens to the point of death, and interfere violently in the politics of other countries.

Top billing in Wallechinsky's list goes to Kim Jong-il, 61, who came to power in 1994 after the death of his father Kim Il-sung, iron-fisted ruler of North Korea for 46 years. The younger Kim has allowed vast numbers of his citizens to starve to death, and an estimated 150,000 are languishing in labor camps. Some 300,000 have fled to China. He admitted to having developed a nuclear program and recently withdrew from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Second in line are two Saudi royalty counting as one, King Fahd, 80, and Crown Prince Abdullah, 79, who have been in power since 1982 and 1995. The former suffered a stroke in 1995 and his half-brother, the Crown Prince, has taken control. No one must criticize the royal family. Trials are held in secret and adultery and abandoning Islam are punishable by beheading. Using a cell phone on an airplane is punishable by 20 lashes. Floggings are often done in shopping malls and are publicly announced. Saudi women are not allowed to drive and walking alone in the street risks beating or detention as "moral offenders."

Only No. 3? you might ask about our third bad guy: Saddam, 65, and at the helm since 1979. He has been so much in the news he deserves no further explanation as one of the world's worst tyrants. He went to war with Iran costing 100,000 Iraqi lives and about 250,000 Iranian ones. He invaded Kuwait losing 50,000 Iraqi lives in the ensuing Persian Gulf war. He has also killed between 20,000 and 30,000 Iraqi Kurds in the north and Shi'ites in the south. The list of his inhuman transgressions is endless.

Landing No. 4 is someone you may not have heard about: Liberia's Charles Taylor, 55, in power since 1997. He fled to the United States after absconding with funds but was extradited back to Liberia. He escaped during his trial and reappeared as the rebel army chief who invaded Liberia touching off a civil war. In 1997, Liberians elected him president, but civil war returned. And according to Amnesty International, Taylor's army has routinely tortured citizens, put civilians under forced labor and used rape as a tactic to instill terror.

No. 5 is in Southeast Asia: Than Shwe, 70, Burma's strongman since 1992. There is no rule of law in that country called Myanmar by the military regime, only dictates from the junta. The International Labor Organization calls Burma's forced labor a "form of modern slavery." The country recruits boys as young as 11 to serve in the military. The junta has released Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest but has not held another election since 1990, whose results it had canceled anyhow.

Another unknown scumbag takes No. 6 billing. Teodoro Obiang Nguema, 60, has been Equatorial Guinea's dictator since 1979. He deposed and killed his uncle Francisco Nguema, and drove thousands of his country's people into exile. Nguema controls all branches of government and continues to arrest and torture his political opponents.

Still another unknown quantity is No. 7 "worst." Saparmurad Niyazob, 62, has been Turkmenistan's chief warlord since 1990. Niyazob has developed a personality cult, notes Wallechinsky, that would be comical were it not accompanied by extreme repression. He calls himself "Turkmenbashi," meaning "Father of all Turkmen." He has renamed the month of January after himself, and has shut down the opera, ballet, circus and the Academy of Sciences.

No. 8 is widely notorious and quite well-known for his antics: Moammar Gadhafi of Libya, 60, in power since 1969. His empire state owns all media, criticism is banned, political trials are secret and torture is common. In the '80s, Gadhafi supported a series of terrorist activities leading the United States to impose economic sanctions on Libya.

The world's longest and most durable reigning dictator is 79 and still swinging away. Fidel Castro of Cuba deposed caudillo Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and has monopolized power since then. While he boasts an excellent system of free medical and dental care, his nation is considered one of the world's poorest. Crimes include such vague references as "disrespect," "insults to the symbols of the homeland" and "dangerousness."

The 10th "worst living dictator" is also little known: Alexander Lukashenko, the youngest in the bunch of villains at 48, who came to power in Belarus in 1994. An admirer of Stalin, he reportedly paved over the graves of 250,000 victims of the dreaded dictator in Soviet days. Freely elected, he has nevertheless manipulated subsequent elections, harassed journalists and jailed political opponents.

Who did Wallechinsky miss? Four dictators are listed as "dishonorable mentions." They are Omar al-Bashir of Sudan, Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Bashar al-Assad of Syria, and the leaders of the People's Revolutionary Party of Laos. What about Hu Jintao of China? Wallechinsky notes that Jintao has been in power only recently and it's still too early to judge his performance as general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party.

This may not be the definitive list of the world's vilest dictators currently. Given other criteria, the world would be crawling with other big or tinpot dictators even if they were democratically elected.

Meanwhile, whatever happened to the still living past dictators who are in exile or in jail somewhere? Is Idi Amin still alive? Is Baby Doc Duvalier still in French Riviera? Is Manuel Noriega still in jail in the United States? There's still a whole slew of them somewhere in the shadows.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Why are doctors taking up nursing? (2)

NOT only doctors are joining the bandwagon. Other health professionals like dentists and physical therapists are taking up nursing in the hope of landing a better-paying job abroad, particularly in the United States. Even a lawyer is known to have enrolled in BS Nursing.

The "nursing bug" has also bitten undergraduates taking up other courses. They are shifting to BS Nursing in droves, oftentimes with the encouragement of their parents and siblings.

The result is a big drop in enrollment in other courses and the swelling of classes in schools of nursing. One school of nursing in Negros Occidental boasts of having 29 sections, prompting it to repeat letters, i.e. XX, YY, ZZ, in naming classes after the 26th section.

To cash in on the huge demand, two more schools of nursing in Bacolod are going to open their doors to doctors who want to take up nursing.

A hospital in Metro Manila is said to have set a height requirement for incoming nursing students to ensure that its graduates are hired in the United States.

If enrollment in BS Nursing is left unregulated, the country will suffer from a shortage of doctors and other professionals. Should demand abroad slacken, the country will end up with an oversupply of nursing graduates.

'We are producing health professionals as fast as we are exporting them'

By Dr. Willie T. Ong, MPH

IN medical school, Jay and I made a pact to serve the poor after we become doctors; Jay as the great surgeon and I as his sidekick. But fate took us to different roads as Jay left six years ago. He is now a practicing internist in Florida.

Through e-mail, I asked Jay, as gently as I could, if he still remembered our dream. Jay confessed, "Yes. I long for home all the time, but I now have a family to take care of. Maybe someday. Who knows?"

The emigration of health workers (nurses, doctors, dentists, physical and occupational therapists) is part of the brain drain.

Prof. Jenny de la Rosa of the College of Public Health, UP Manila says that alarmingly high numbers of doctors and nurses (approximately 80 percent of our practicing nurses) are serving in foreign lands. But why do they leave in the first place?

In a study done three decades ago, Walden Bello cited three reasons why Filipino professionals work abroad: (1) higher pay (2) poor professional climate, and (3) disenchantment with local politics, that is, favoritism in appointments. Having recently interviewed several doctors and nurses, the reasons appear the same. Imagine, nurses and doctors can get up to 10 to 15 times their usual salary here. Plus, the deteriorating sociopolitical climate hinders even the nationalistic health workers from coming back.

Solutions

The proposed solutions, then and now, are hard to implement. Bello advises that efforts to curtail brain drain come from developing countries themselves and not from developed ones. An ideal situation is one in which the government provides adequate pay, good professional atmosphere, and intellectual satisfaction and recognition for their work. We failed to achieve all this.

At a recent round-table discussion conducted by the Institute of Health Policy and Developmental Studies (IHPDS) in UP Manila, these issues were discussed with no clear light at the end of the tunnel. Three possible solutions—policy, education and values—can be looked into.

Regarding policies, a nursing consensus group proposes that foreign recruiters pay a certain sum, say $1,000, to the local recruiters for every nurse they take in. A more radical policy option is to force health workers to stay in the provinces for one to two years after graduation. But then the ticklish issue of human rights—the right to travel and work where they please—comes in.

Community medicine

Education is another solution. Dr. Marilyn F. Lorenzo, chair of the IHPDS, asks: "For whom are we training our health professionals?" If it is for our needs, then our educational system should emphasize community medicine. If a doctor or nurse is only trained in western medicine using western textbooks, then it will be easier for him to leave the country. Should we decide to gear our health education system for the Filipinos' needs, will our students flock to this "dead-end" course or would they prefer an education that promises better opportunities?

This leads us to the third issue of values and nationalism. Years ago, a local magazine featured an interview with a foreign doctor who visited the Philippines. Upon learning of brain drain, the foreigner asked, "Are you not teaching nationalism in your medical schools?"

As one health worker wails, "It really doesn't help that my professors have fled faster than me."

Dr. Juan Nañagas, PGH medical director, believes that we question each would-be medical student on his or her plans even before entering medical school.

Less nationalistic

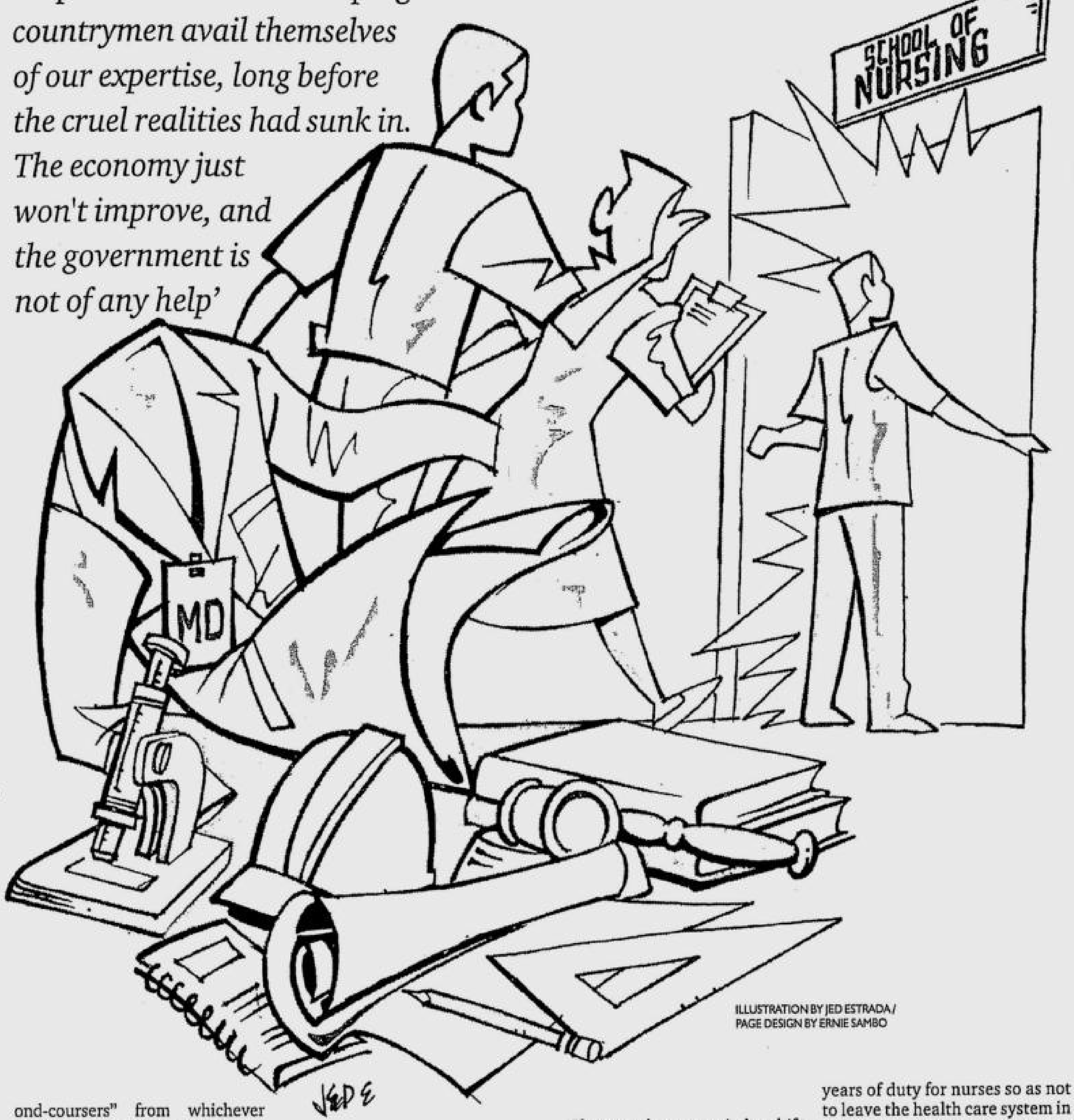
Many writers before had pointed to this apparent less nationalistic stand of those who left. But after grappling with the issue myself, I don't blame those who left for a better future, since we can't provide for them in our own country.

And I do agree that the real heroes are those who serve the less privileged areas, although few look to them as such. A rare Dr. Bobby de la Paz died serving the sick and the poor. The doctors to the barrios deserve our utmost respect and admiration for doing what many of us urban doctors cannot.

If only to assuage our guilt, we see that the brain drain is not limited to health professionals, as the Philippines is known to export all kinds of human resources, from maids to guest relations officers.

Indeed, we are producing health professionals as fast as we are exporting them. It's our greatest asset and our greatest weakness. For there are unavoidable complications like broken family ties, and the angst of living abroad and longing for home. But no need to worry as money comes steadily with our jobs. And money can buy happiness… for a while.

'Unpatriotic? We were helping our countrymen avail themselves of our expertise, long before the cruel realities had sunk in. The economy just won't improve, and the government is not of any help'



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'We don't owe anybody an explanation'

By Dr. Reginald Hao
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IT could have been just one of those career moves—movie stars breaking into a singing career, fashion models baring it all for the big screen, and housewives taking ballet, piano or voice lessons.

Some people call it "re-inventing oneself" but some fellow doctors and "well-meaning" people just make so much fuss about it. We don't know why.

The cynics are blowing it out of proportion, spewing unsolicited and harsh comments. They put down doctors taking up nursing as if we committed a crime. But hey, did they ask us why we decided on such a seemingly drastic career change?

They should have. They should have at least tried to hear us out. It's enough that we are living our lives the way we want to—unless we owe them anything or asked them favors in the past. Our right to lead lives the way we deem fit is a business all our own.

That they will have to do something to stop us is something else. They must be drowning in their own rhetoric and conjecture. They must be those who want to push their values on other people. But isn't the hallmark of maturity the absence of the desire to control other people's lives?

Doctors, or dentists, physical therapists, medical technologists, bankers, police officers, disgruntled residents, bored housewives, discontented employees or those with foresight and ambition, "second-coursers" from whichever profession, or even medical students frustrated with how the medical wheel turns now, have every right to shift gear.

We don't owe anybody an explanation. That some of us may not succeed in our endeavor is not the point. That our detractors cannot join the bandwagon because of age, position, pride, or status in society, is actually their problem.

Didn't it occur to them that they, who are destroying the hospital and medical community out of envy, professional jealousy and greed, might have been the proverbial "last straw that broke the camel's back?" This made us decide to try our luck elsewhere. This is not an excuse. This is something they have to hear, but nobody dare say.

Choices

Life is full of choices. Whichever they take is something for which they are accountable to themselves, or to their God, if they have one.

They have no right to question the choices that others are making. They were not created by God to be better than we are. We are not asking from them our next meal. We are doing what we are doing for ourselves.

Whatever their insecurities, frustrations and fears are, they will have to deal with these themselves. They might have ghosts they are afraid to face, but they have to be "in front of the light so that the shadow will fall behind them." Now, if that is beyond their comprehension, they must have a lot of growing up to do. And we are really very sorry.

It's like this. If they are fellow doctors, why don't they just think of it as having competitors out of their path of greed should many of their colleagues decide to pursue nursing? Perhaps, that will do their heart so much good.

Unpatriotic

Brain drain? Think again. Some of us have given the best years of our lives to serve the "least of our brethren"—sometimes, for a song. Unpatriotic? We were helping our countrymen avail themselves of our expertise, long before the cruel realities had sunk in. The economy just won't improve, and the government is not of any help. They, and we, know that too well—unless they are blind.

We wish they could see us study for an exam, or go on duty. If they wish they were young again, they might have a thing or two to learn from this.

It's not our fault if they don't want to read books anymore or be taught by somebody they consider "lesser mortals," or be learning things they think they already know, and know more about. They will be surprised to find out how disparate the two disciplines are. But don't block us, for nobody blocked them in the past, when they tried to dream their dreams. *Carpe diem*, we shout. We just want to "seize the day!"

A better quality of life, a well-remunerated hard work, and freedom and democracy true to the spirit of the First Amendment are the top three reaons why most of us are taking up nursing.

'Nurses mustn't be shackled'

By Miya Ritualo Jalbuena
*2nd Year, BS Public Health
University of the Philippines*

I CAN relate with how doctors, who are taking up nursing to earn a decent income and get a chance to migrate to the United States, feel.

I have made up my mind to shift to BS Nursing next school year. In fact, I am now processing my papers so that I can take some of the required subjects in BSN this summer. I've already set three years (four at the most) for my schooling and two years for hospital duty (that is, if the government will not listen to the "Talk of the Town's" proposal for additional years of duty).

Like the doctors that this section featured last week, I wanted to pursue and practice medicine in order to serve our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Unfortunately, my noble intentions were quickly replaced by frustration given the current state of our economy and the endless political bickering of our politicians.

It was only last year that the rapid hiring of nurses made a buzz and I took notice. I've read reports that the demand is projected to last until 2030 but even if it is until 2010, I hope to be included in the first 300,000 or so. Not bad, considering the fact that the United States wants Filipino nurses because we have built a good reputation as caregivers and medical professionals.

Wasted

At the very least, I can say that I'm a bit lucky compared with doctors because I only "wasted" two years of my life before seeing the wisdom in my mother's fervent wish to shift courses. Those doctors, on the other hand, spent a good number of years healing people without being properly compensated by the government and their patients. The wiser decision is to swallow their pride and to take the humbling experience of being a nurse.

I was a bit disappointed when it was suggested that the government increase the number of years of duty for nurses so as not to leave the health care system in chaos. I would like to point out that going abroad may be the only way people like me, who come from lower middle-class families, can get the chance to improve their family's financial status.

It cannot be denied that a large percentage of nursing students are from the poor and the middle class. Let's face it. Most kids belonging to affluent families take up courses in management/accountancy (to manage their businesses), fashion, modeling, acting, culinary arts and other so-called glamorous jobs.

The rest will become socialites or writers for the society pages. Only a handful is into hands-on service like nursing (because most of them pursue medicine). But then again, with this demand in the United States for nursing, the trend might change.

Hopeless

One way of narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor is for the government to support nurses. They must not be shackled in this hopeless country.

We also know that the dollar remittance of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) is very important in stabilizing the peso-dollar rate. If we stop or delay sending nurses to the United States and other countries, we hinder the growth of our economy. OFWs are not called *"mga bagong bayani"* for nothing!

If we let nurses work here for a few more years, other nationalities might catch up with us and we will lose our competitive edge. This is what happened when we became complacent with the situation of our seafarers and IT professionals.

In the end, it comes to this: the government has to make a stand on this issue. I just hope that for once, it will come up with something that is useful to the nation.

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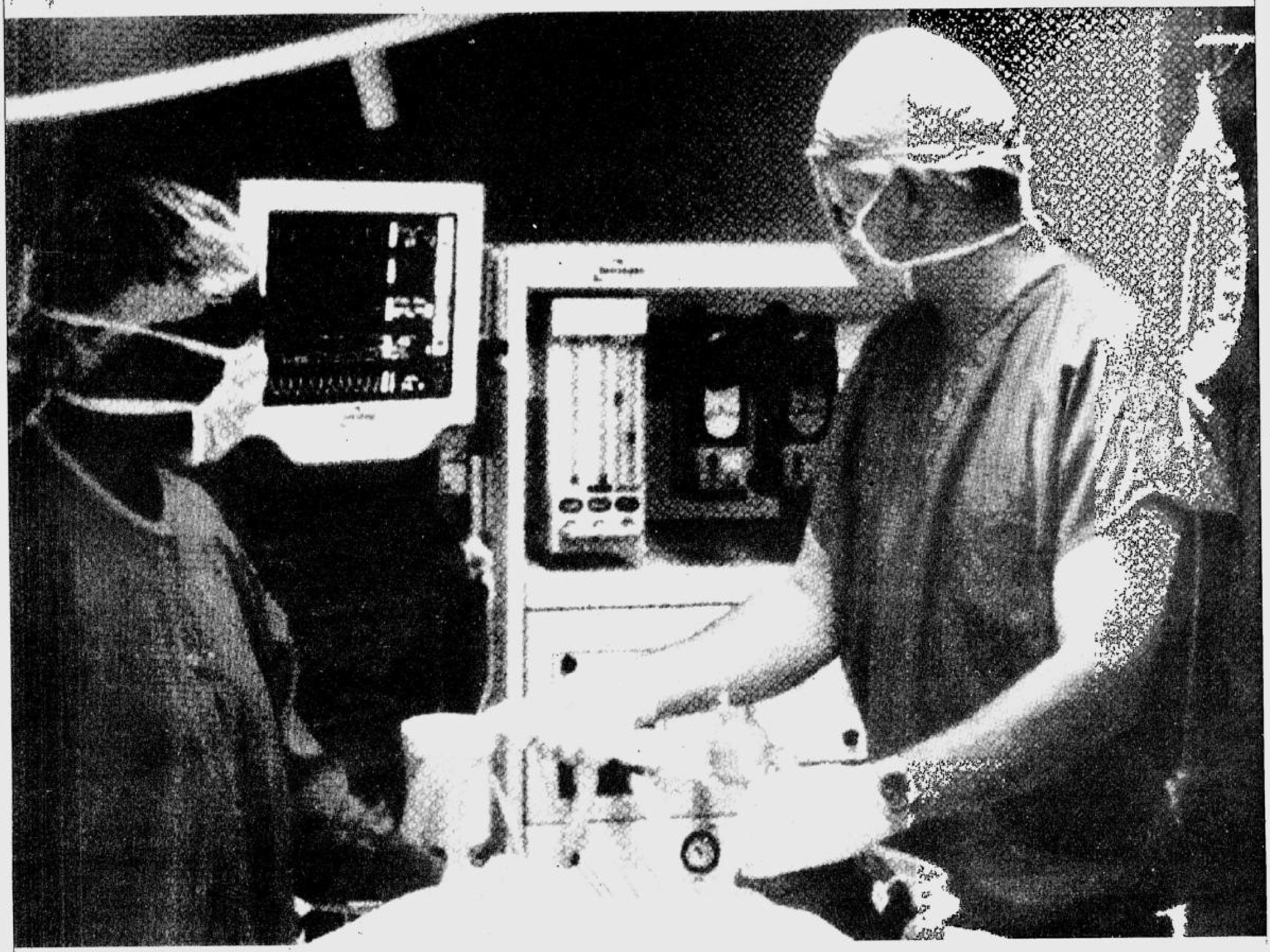

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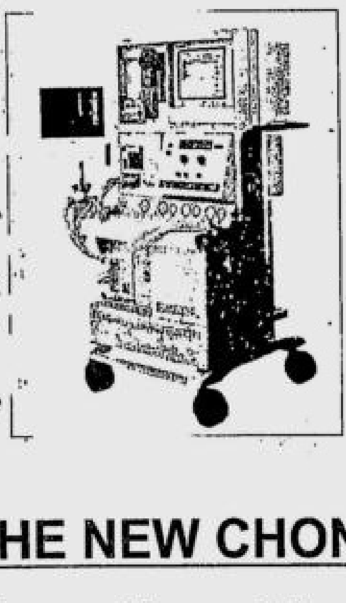

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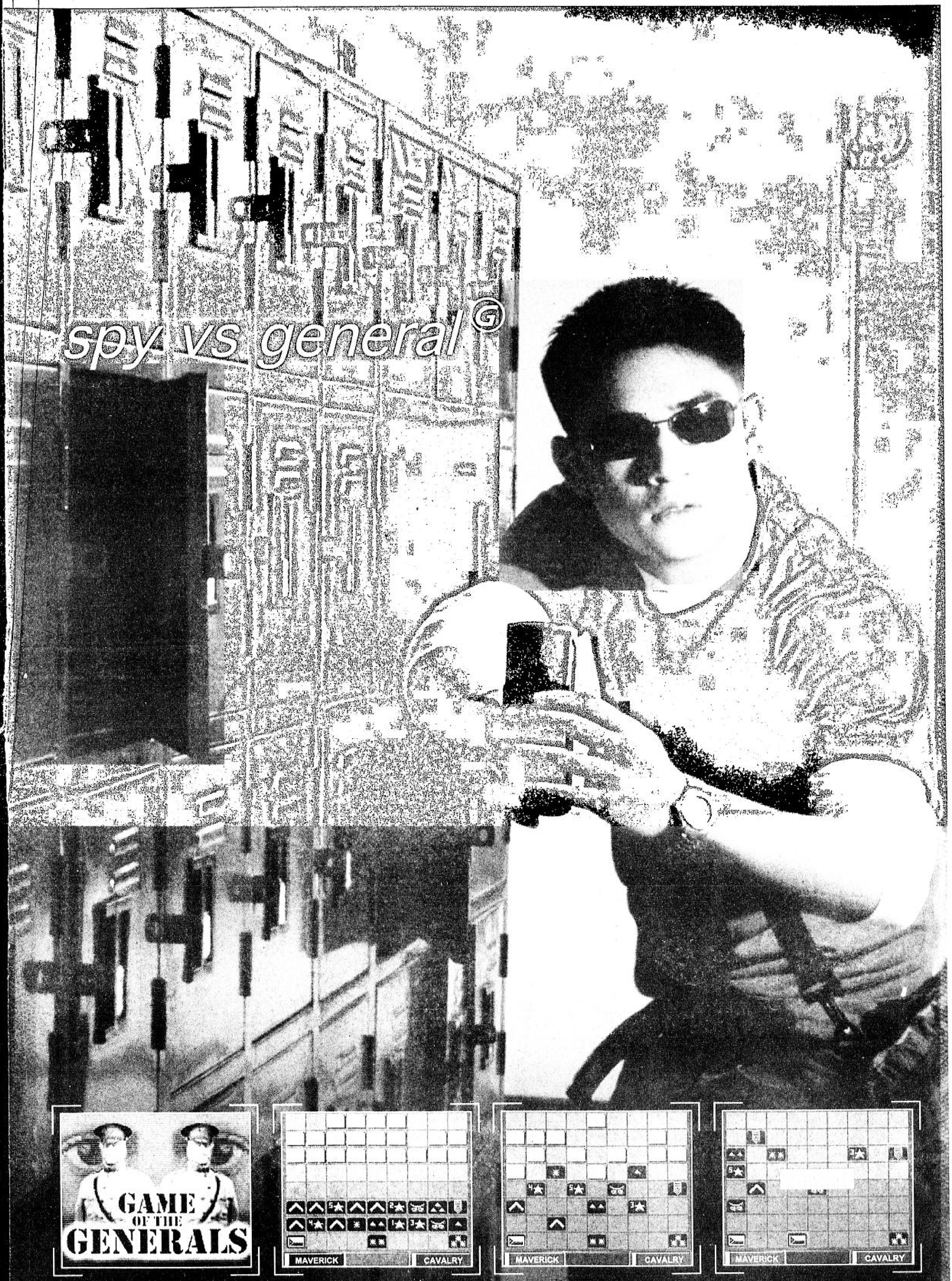

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

96 killed in Rhode Island blaze sparked by rock band's fireworks

WEST WARWICK, Rhode Island—At least 96 people were killed and nearly 190 injured when pyrotechnics at a rock concert ignited a massive blaze at a crowded nightclub in Rhode Island overnight, officials said Friday.

AN AGENT from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms digs through the still smoldering wreckage of "The Station" nightclub by hand searching for fire victims Feb. 21 in West Warwick, Rhode Island. REUTERS

Survivors said the fire spread so fast that the entire club in West Warwick was engulfed in flames within three minutes, as people crushed each other in a desperate bid to escape the inferno.

While some victims were burned to death or died of smoke inhalation, fire officials said others were trampled to death and still more killed as the building collapsed.

"We think we have recovered all of the bodies," Gov. Donald Carcieri told reporters after rescue workers finished a final sweep of the charred remains of the club.

A total of 187 people were treated for injuries, of which 81 had been hospitalized and 25 were listed as critical.

The capacity of The Station club was 300, but the governor estimated that there were close to 350 people inside.

"If you were not out of that building in 30 seconds you didn't have a prayer," Carcieri said.

An investigation into the cause of the fire was underway, but officials said the priority remained the search operation and the identification of the bodies, many of which had been burned beyond recognition.

The Rhode Island disaster apparently began with a pyrotechnic display which was part of the act put on by the 1980s hard rock band Great White.

The special effects triggered a blaze that started around 11 p.m. and raged until 4 a.m.

Witnesses testified they were unsure at first whether the flames were the result of an accident or merely part of the special effects. When it became obvious that the club itself was on fire, the 250 clubbers panicked and headed for the doors.

"I was knocked on the ground and people were stamping on my back and on my head. I was holding my head up and thinking I'm going to die here," said survivor Lisa Shea.

"People were hurt very bad, but you couldn't see in front of you. Everything was black smoke and you could feel bodies on the floor," Shea said.

Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch said the Great White band members were being questioned as accusations began to fly over responsibility for the blaze. *AFP*

British man shot dead in Riyadh

RIYADH—The British government on Friday advised its citizens against "nonessential" travel to Saudi Arabia and British aviation and aerospace company BAE Systems urged employees Friday to be vigilant about their safety following the killing of a British employee here a day earlier.

Robert Dent, 37, was shot and killed Thursday while waiting at a traffic light in Riyadh, the capital, on his way back to the compound where he lived with his family. Dent had lived in Saudi Arabia for 10 years and was married with two children.

The Saudi Interior Ministry identified the alleged attacker as Saud bin Ali bin Nasser, a 30-year-old naturalized Saudi, saying he was apprehended with the murder weapon. Nasser works as a sales agent for Toyota, the statement said. Press reports said Nasser was born in Yemen.

Citing "increasing regional tension and the risk of terrorist action," the British Foreign Office said its nationals in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan and Qatar should maintain a "high level of vigilance." The office said it had authorized the departure of non-essential staff, and the families of all staff, at British diplomatic missions in those countries.

There are more than 30,000 Britons living in Saudi Arabia, the British government said, and several thousand each in Bahrain and Qatar.

Concerns about anti-Western sentiment in the Middle East have heightened as America and Britain step up preparations for a possible war against Iraq, with about 150,000 US troops and more than 40,000 British forces being deployed to the Gulf region. *AP*

US to resume food aid to North Korea, Powell says

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska—Secretary of State Colin Powell said Friday he expected to announce a resumption in US food aid to North Korea during a three-nation tour of Asia that begins this weekend.

The announcement will herald a resumption in US supplies of assistance to the World Food Program that ended three months ago and will coincide with Powell's lobbying of Japan, China and South Korea to press Pyongyang to halt its nuclear weapons programs.

"We will be making an announcement soon of an initial tranche and then we will monitor World Food Program needs, what they ask for, to see what our additional contribution will be as we go through the year," he said.

"Before this trip is out, I think I'll be able to say more about food," Powell told reporters accompanying him on the trip en route to a refueling stop here.

Shipments of US food aid to North Korea were halted in December as Washington did not then have congressional authority to spend aid money in 2003. That authority has now been granted with the delayed passage of the fiscal 2003 budget.

However, US officials acknowledged having deep concerns about the distribution of the aid and some critics had accused the United States of using food as a political tool.

The critics, including many in Asia, suggested the aid was being withheld to pressure Pyongyang into abandoning its nuclear programs or at least drop its refusal to speak only to Washington and not others about the situation.

Powell said that in his announcement, he would make clear that the United States does not "use food as a political weapon." *AFP*

Palestinians seek truce for one year

A PALESTINIAN boy climbs down a small beach cliff to bypass a part of a paved road closed two days earlier by Israeli troops, just south of Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Feb. 21. The road closure, and another in the south effectively splits Gaza Strip into three parts. AP

JERUSALEM—The Palestinian leadership called for a one-year "demilitarization" of the uprising Friday, while Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon continued to try to woo his left-wing rival into a national unity coalition.

Three Palestinians were also shot dead in fresh violence which capped a week of bloodshed during which 35 Palestinians and four Israelis were killed.

Palestine Liberation Organization number two Mahmud Abbas, better known by his nom de guerre Abu Mazen, said after meeting in Moscow with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov that "the Palestinian leadership has decided to demilitarize the intifada for one year."

He stopped short of clearly calling for an end to the armed struggle against Israeli occupation. But his wording implied an end to attacks not only against civilians inside Israel but also Jewish settlers and soldiers going further than past calls by the Palestinian leadership.

Radical groups, including an armed offshoot of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah, have repeatedly rejected truce calls from the leadership, but Israel has recently turned up the heat on hardliners.

The army has been pounding the powerful Islamic Hamas group in its Gaza bastion and the daily Haaretz reported Friday that Israel would declare an all-out war on the group if it did not abide by a truce reportedly presented at the recent intra-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

Abu Mazen, a likely candidate for the newly created position of Palestinian prime minister, said the truce could be a step toward implementation of a peace roadmap—drawn up by the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia—which calls for a Palestinian state by 2005.

Sharon, meanwhile, met with the Amram Mitzna for the third time Friday in a last-ditch bid to convince the Labour party leader—who has consistently refused to compromise his dovish platform by entering a coalition—to join a national unity government.

The premier's office said the talks lasted two hours and would resume after Shabbat on Saturday night, but commentators were pessimistic about their prospects for success.

Another, less attractive, option emerged for Sharon as public radio reported that his right-wing Likud party had brokered a coalition agreement between the secular Shinui and the National Religious Party.

The deal would involve a significant secularization of Israel but would only give Sharon a tenuous majority in parliament.

Meanwhile, there was more violence as a Palestinian was shot dead by Israeli troops in his car during an incursion into the northern West Bank city of Tulkarem late Friday, Palestinian security services said. *AFP*

Singapore now using water from sewage

SINGAPORE—The government has begun replenishing Singapore's reservoirs with water reclaimed from sewage, part of a bid to lessen the country's dependence on water imported from neighboring Malaysia, the prime minister said.

Nearly 8 million liters—equivalent to 1 percent of Singapore's daily water consumption—of the treated waste water was added to the city-state's reservoirs late Friday, Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said in a speech.

The government launched an aggressive campaign last year to prepare Singaporeans for drinking the reclaimed waste water, dubbed 'Newater.' It distributed over a million free bottles of Newater last year, at events including its National Day parade.

This wealthy, urban island nation now buys more than half of its water from the neighboring Malaysian state of Johor under decades-old treaties which start expiring in 2011.

The situation is a sore point between the two countries, with much-larger Malaysia wanting to raise the price of raw water it sells to its tiny neighbor.

Goh said Singapore would be totally self-sufficient by the time all the water agreements expire in 2061.

Under the agreements, signed in the early 1960s, Singapore pays three Malaysian sen (0.8 US cents) 4,540 liters of raw water.

"We are grateful to Malaysia for supplying us water all these years, and in the years to come. However, I see our decreasing reliance on Johor water in a positive light," Goh said. "It will take the sensitive issue of water out of the equation of bilateral relations." *AP*

Transplant girl suffers brain damage

THIS undated file image obtained Feb. 21 courtesy of Jesica's Hope Chest, Inc. shows 17-year-old Jesica Santillan with her mother Magdalena (top) after her first heart lung transplant at Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC. AFP

DURHAM, North Carolina—A 17-year-old Mexican girl who was the victim of a botched heart-lung transplant has suffered "irreversible brain damage," doctors said Friday.

A senior neurologist who examined Jesica Santillan early Friday, hours after a second transplant operation that was intended to correct the first, noted "a severe and irreversible brain injury."

A spokesperson for Duke University Medical Center said a CAT scan of Santillan's brain showed swelling and some bleeding.

"We continue to treat her with medicines and procedures to try to relieve some of the swelling and the pressure," physician Karen Frush said.

Doctors continue to conduct tests to assess the teenager's brain function.

Thursday's organ transplant was the teenager's second such surgery in as many weeks.

A first life-saving transplant on Feb. 7 went awry after doctors gave Santillan organs with an A negative blood type instead of the O positive type she needed.

Her body rejected the new heart and lungs and she suffered a heart attack three days after the operation, pushing her to the brink of death.

A machine had kept her heart and lungs working since the botched operation.

In the hours after the second surgery, doctors said her new heart and lungs were performing as expected and she was breathing with the help of a ventilator after the four-hour operation.

But doctors warned it was too early to say whether she would pull through because of the damage her body suffered while on life support.

"She's as critical as a person could be. I can't really say anybody could be any sicker," said Duane Davis, one of the physicians who assisted in Thursday's operation. *AFP*

US spending $1.6B monthly in global fight against terrorism

WASHINGTON—The costs of a war with Iraq would be on top of the $28 billion the US military has already spent battling terrorists in Afghanistan and around the world since the Sept. 11 attacks, Pentagon officials said.

Excluding preparations for confronting Iraq, that is what the Pentagon had spent through last Sept. 30, said Defense Department spokesperson Lt. Col. Gary Keck Friday.

The global fight against terrorism is now averaging $1.6 billion monthly, including $750 million in Afghanistan, he said.

The antiterror spending compares with an overall defense budget of $366 billion for the federal budget year that started last Oct. 1.

But that amount is expected to grow significantly in coming weeks, with or without a war.

Members of Congress and aides said that in coming weeks they expect President George W. Bush to request $20 billion more for the military for this year—excluding any costs of a war with Iraq.

The money would be for replenishing accounts the Pentagon has dipped into for its ongoing campaigns in Afghanistan, the Philippines and elsewhere abroad. In addition, the military has incurred more security expenses at home, such as air patrols over some major US cities.

If there is war with Iraq, the Pentagon will need even more money. White House officials are still trying to decide when they would seek funds to pay for the conflict.

So far, the United States has spent $2.3 billion deploying troops and equipment to the Middle East in preparation for possible war with Iraq, Keck said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, several congressional aides said they believe that figure understates the actual expenses. Last September, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that it would cost $9 billion to $13 billion to deploy a force to the Persian Gulf.

Pentagon officials, who have questioned the accuracy of the CBO report, say there are more than 150,000 US troops in the Middle East, an amount analysts expect to grow to 250,000. Also present are four aircraft carrier groups and hundreds of aircraft—numbers that are also expected to rise.

Besides the $20 billion request expected for the Pentagon, the administration is also expected to seek billions for other efforts.

Turkey seems likely to receive at least $6 billion in US aid. Jordan and perhaps Israel, Egypt and other regional allies are probably in line for billions more, lawmakers and congressional aides say. *AP*

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Dads say smuggling continues in Clark

ANGELES CITY—Councilors here asked the Office of the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) to investigate the reported widespread technical smuggling at the Clark Special Economic Zone.

They said billions of pesos are lost annually from technical smuggling in the former US military base.

Last Wednesday, Councilor Alexander Cauguiran accused owners of duty-free shops and some officials of Clark Development Corp. (CDC) of involvement in the importation of tax-free goods.

The city council initially intended to pass a resolution urging the CDC to look into the smuggling but Cauguiran insisted that the Office of the Ombudsman and the PAGC conduct their own investigation.

In a privilege speech, Cauguiran said duty-free goods and equipment worth P15 billion were imported by Clark locators last year.

He said the imported items included canned goods, liquor and cigarettes that were sold in duty-free shops outside the special economic zone.

"Because of the technical smuggling at Clark by unscrupulous investors in connivance with some top CDC officials, the local market is flooded with tax-free products to the detriment of local traders who have been religiously paying their taxes," he said.

Cauguiran cited as example the alleged violation of the CDC management's memorandum limiting the amount of goods to be imported each month.

Ma Ling

He said duty-free shops were each allowed only to import three containers of Ma Ling luncheon meat and a container of liquor a month.

However, he said import documents he obtained revealed that some duty-free shops imported excessive amount of goods in violation of the CDC memorandum.

He said Puregold Duty-Free store alone, the biggest duty-free shop in Clark, imported 190 containers of Ma Ling products from January to December last year. He also said the shop also imported some 50 containers of liquor.

"My calculation showed that Puregold imported about 6.5 million cans of Ma Ling in 2002. And since each customer was allowed only to purchase 12 cans of Ma Ling, it meant there were 544, 320 customers who bought Ma Ling from Puregold. Can Puregold prove that? But the CDC said that these importations were properly liquidated and that there were papers," he said.

He said the Bureau of Customs and the CDC security department were unaware of the alleged massive smuggling at Clark.

He said he was waiting for documents on the seizure of a 40-foot container with 200 TV sets by either CDC security personnel or customs agents.

The seized appliances seemed to have "vanished in thin air," he added. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WAR TAGGED 'ANTI-MUSLIM'

Muslim youths lured to MILF

MARAWI CITY—Militant Muslim youths here said the government could not blame them if they decide to join the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and similar groups because of what they believe was an anti-Muslim campaign being waged in Mindanao.

As this developed, a respected Muslim cleric in Davao Oriental said some politicians were exploiting the "anti-Muslim" sentiment among Christians because of their personal interests.

"Let's face it, majority of the Christians are supportive of the government's all-out war against the MILF. And (politicians) were using this to boost (their) chances of winning in 2004," Imam Ruperto Manuel, vice president of the Ulama League of the Philippines, said during a peace forum in Mati town on Thursday afternoon.

But Drieza Lininding, spokesperson of the Coalition of Muslim Youth Movements in Lanao del Sur, said the anti-MILF war has political color.

She said it was really aimed at flushing out the Muslims from their areas so the government's vision of peace would reign in Mindanao.

She told the INQUIRER that for the government, peace in Mindanao could only come without the Muslims.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo's concept of peace is to eradicate us (Muslims), if we talk about peace it should be co-existence, a peace for all of us . . . not flushing out the Moro rebels and displacing thousands of women and children as what is happening now in Liguasan," Lininding said during a protest here on Thursday.

Earlier, peace advocates in Mindanao cautioned the government against waging war on the MILF because it would only be perceived as having religious undertones.

"If this kind of peace continues I am sure that some of these youth here joining the protest would one day take up arms if only to preserve our race that has been discriminated all over the world. I believed that these same youth gathered here one day will be in the front lines," Lininding said.

Aside from its religious undertones, Lininding said her group believes that the war in Pikit was aimed at controlling the oil-rich Liguasan Marsh.

"How inhuman they are to cause bloodshed just because they want to explore the Liguasan Marsh for the rich oil deposit it has," she said.

Noraiza Julkeple, 16, a senior high school student at the Marawi City National High School, urged Ms Macapagal to "let real peace reign." *Grace Cantal-Albasin and Rosa-May V. de Guzman with a report from Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Kids with OFW parents join crusade for peace

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—High school students, whose overseas Filipino worker parents remain in the center of a potential American-instigated maelstrom, were treated on Thursday to a Left-wing perspective on the looming attack on Iraq.

Rafael Baylosis, a former rebel, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, and Maryknoll Sr. Mary Grenough introduced about 50 teenagers to the "historical" treachery of "US imperialism," and traced its forward momentum to the almost daily headlines about American President George W. Bush's "warmongering" stance against Iraq.

However their politics might have been colored, high school students of Easter College needed to hear opinions about the war because 50 percent of them have parents who work in the Middle East, said Elizabeth Guerzon, the school principal.

Records at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration here note that 7.29 million OFWs are farmed out to 187 nations.

Since 2001, women have dominated the OFW traffic, with 72 percent composing the 2,700 OFWs who leave daily, said the Batis Center for Women.

The average OFW flights have not changed, according to the POEA, despite the threat of war in Iraq. Government records estimate that 10 percent of 78 million Filipinos are migrants, and are potentially vulnerable to the US threats.

The horrors of war had crept into the lifestyles of these OFW families, said Jamie Malona, 16, a senior high school student.

Malona's mother Ruth, who is a nurse, had just returned home from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. "But she is due to fly back to Riyadh on May 17. My family does not want to discuss it, but I am the eldest and I know everyone feels bad about this," Malona said in Filipino.

"I have stopped looking at the news, but I usually can't help but listen to it, and then I start feeling bad (that my mother is close to the region)," she said.

Roman Palima Jr., 16, said he had been looking forward to talking to his father by telephone. Roman Sr. is an office worker in Saudi Arabia.

"I am also concerned about his safety. I know (Saudi Arabia) is far from (Iraq), but I feel a little frightened," he said.

But like Malona, Palima said his family also stopped talking about "an inevitable war."

Imelda Parcasio, a civics teacher, said the students have been discussing war among themselves primarily because of their mutual concern for their parents.

"They talk about the war because they hear the stories about war everywhere . . . The television, the newspapers (run these same stories over and over again). That is why we asked (Beltran and his fellow panelists) to discuss the war for them. Half of our student population have OFW parents," she said.

Malona said the students, who attended the Thursday forum, were intrigued by the panels' proposition.

Baylosis, Beltran and Grenough launched into their recollections about American foreign policies from 1940 to 1991, which drew the world to war, under the lecture theme, "The US War Against the Global Community."

Baylosis advised the students to be the mouthpieces for peace in their communities, as anti-war rallies in major countries begin to infect other nations.

Peace advocates have started to build up their lobby machinery to convince President Macapagal-Arroyo to renounce her support for Bush's aggressive stance against Iraq, said Beltran.

"I am a US citizen and I strongly disagree with my government's behavior . . . War will never bring peace. War always affects the innocent people before it touches the people who create it," said Grenough.

Pointing out that the United States started the Iraqi crisis by arming Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during America's 1970s crisis with Iran, Grenough said, "I can no longer trust what my government is telling the world."

Baylosis, who is a Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) adviser for political affairs, said the Iraqi crisis has started to trigger an oil market imbalance.

"This would immediately affect our food prices, our transportation costs, and our economy, and both labor and consumers will suffer should the war erupt," he said. "But we can still stop this war."

FLICKERS of light provide hope to children of OFWs in a Baguio City school whose prayers for peace are likely to be unheard as the United States continues to beat the drums of war.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON

Negros docs gear for new war on malaria

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Department of Health has conducted a massive blood testing in the hinterland villages of Sta. Catalina town, about 85 km south of here, following a rise in malaria cases in the area since early this month.

Joseph Tagle, leader of the malaria team of the health regional office in Central Visayas, said 11 persons from Sitios Payaopayaoan, Igag and Bukalo of Barangay Nagbinlod and Sitio Liptong of Barangay Talalak, Sta. Catalina have so far been found to be positive of a type of malaria that attacks the brain.

The malaria's carrier is the female anopheles mosquito.

No fatality was reported yet.

Anopheles mosquitoes breed in clean water and breed faster during the rainy season when pools of water form.

Tagle said the number of cases is expected to rise once results of tests on blood samples are released.

At least 371 persons from two villages were subjected to the blood tests last week. Half of the samples are still being tested.

Tagle said "radical treatment" was already administered to the infected individuals. His team, he said, also sprayed anti-mosquito insecticides in at least four villages.

He said the team would return to Sta. Catalina to continue spraying anti-mosquito chemicals should tests show more malaria cases.

The discovery marred the record of Negros Oriental, which had no recorded case of malaria since 1999.

"This frustrates our plan to recommend Negros Oriental as a malaria-free province," Tagle said.

He, however, said malaria is "endemic" in the towns of Basayo, Sta. Catalina, Siaton and the city of Bayawan in the south and the towns of Sibulan, San Jose, Amlan, Pamplona, Mabinay and the city of Tanjay in the north.

But he said some victims got infected from other places. He said two of the 11 confirmed malaria cases were contracted in Palawan by the victims who worked in fishing vessels there.

Farmers accept changes in rice import program

VARIOUS farmers' groups yesterday called for an end to bickering over the government's Farmers as Importers program (FAI) after the National Food Authority, the program's implementor, buckled down to pressure to revise the program's guidelines in favor of small farmers' cooperatives.

In a joint statement, the National Confederation of Irrigators' Association (NCIA), Sta. Cruz Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative and Tolega Sur Multi-Purpose Cooperative said farmers should now unite with government agencies to ensure the program's success and the country's return to rice self-sufficiency.

"Our objective is to revive the ailing rice farmers' sector. The additional earnings from rice trading and business training we will get from the FAI will be invaluable," said NCIA spokesperson Silvestre Bontoc.

During a meeting with farmers' groups on Friday, the NFA agreed to lower the ceiling for rice importation to 500 metric tons per farmers' group per quarter and 1,000 metric tons for each group for a year.

An allocation system will replace the first-come, first-serve system to allow greater participation by more legitimate farmers' groups.

The NFA also agreed to allow modes of payment other than letters of credit.

Another agreement reached during the meeting was to limit the unloading of imported rice to these ports only: Manila, Manila International Container Terminal, Batangas, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro.

20-DAY STRIKE

It's back to work at Benguet mining firm

BAGUIO CITY—The first strike that froze the operations of the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (LCMC) in 66 years ended on its 20th day on Saturday, after the firm's unions and management wrapped up eight compromise agreements.

Workers at the firm's mine site in Mankayan, Benguet, started rehabilitating the mine tunnels on Friday, after some 500 union members agreed to return to work. Operations are scheduled to resume today (Feb. 23, Sunday).

The strike ended after a memorandum of agreement between representatives of LCMC and the unions was signed at 3:15 a.m. before the National Conciliation and Mediation Board in Baguio City.

But the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) and the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), which supported the strike of the 160-member Lepanto Local Staff Union and the 1,526-member Lepanto Employees Union, had scheduled an indignation rally today in Mankayan, Benguet.

Windel Bolinget, CPA secretary general, said the unions' lawyers failed to convince the firm to reinstate 42 union leaders who were fired earlier for launching the strike.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran, a former KMU president, also told the INQUIRER earlier that the party-list group will pursue a resolution that would seek a House investigation of the Department of Labor and Employment's alleged mishandling of the Lepanto crisis.

Beltran said they received reports that Dole virtually sided with the company, violating laws and constitutional provisions that protect workers.

Glenn Batilando, Lepanto environment manager, said the lawyers of the firm and the unions managed to address seven "non-strikeable issues" which triggered the Feb. 2 strike.

The strike cost Lepanto up to P38 million in direct operational losses. LCMC is a gold and copper operation that earns $47 million a year in exports.

Batilando, who joined the first talks on Feb. 19, said the company agreed to ease a compulsory holiday work policy. "We only agreed that the company can start assigning work to workers on Christmas or any holiday if the number of volunteers do not reach the critical numbers required for a given operation," he said.

The firm also agreed to ease its enforcement of work deadlines, administrative processes for "high grading" or theft inside mine tunnels. The firm also agreed to settle its obligations involving unused leaves and cooperative dues.

According to the agreement, LCMC will soon review its labor-only contracting scheme. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER Mindanao
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Among the walking wounded of Pikit

By Dr. June Pagaduan Lopez
Pikit, North Cotabato

(Note: The author is a psychiatrist and the director of the Balik Kalipay (Return to Happiness) Program in Pikit, North Cotabato.—Ed.)

THE WOUNDED of Pikit—civilians caught in the crossfire of a war not of their making.

AP

"MISSED a car bomb explosion by a few minutes after arriving at Cotabato airport!"

This was the text message I sent to family and friends as we rode Thursday morning in a convoy toward Pikit, North Cotabato. Barely an hour into the war zone, I already felt like a war victim. How much more those who have lived there all their lives and known nothing but the recurring wars of the 1970s up to this time?

I think about Pahima, a young former staff member of our program. A Muslim, she was in her early teens when she first witnessed a firefight in her barangay, Rajah Muhda. To escape to safety, she had to swim against the raging current of a river.

Like Pahima, most young people in Pikit have stories to tell. They have become so familiar with the violence that had taken away not only their homes and their parents' livelihood but also their loved ones.

Today, the physical wounds of war are evident once more.

In many sitios, homes have been abandoned, fields have been left to dry and open to destruction from continuous shelling.

Many schoolhouses are no longer places for learning and play. They have become makeshift and overcrowded shelters for more than 40,000 men, women and children. Some have even been used as temporary barracks by the military.

For many nights now, the town has been sleepless with the sound of gunfire and bomb blasts. Last night, at half past midnight, I could hear gunfire and artillery shots from a nearby barangay now sheltering several hundreds of evacuees.

Still, that may not be the only worrisome thing about Pikit. Worse are the wounds that its people carry in their minds and hearts after years of being caught in the war between government forces and rebels.

Always scared

"MJ," a 26-year-old mother, survived the all-out war of 2000. She said her life changed drastically after that.

Recalling the night when shots rang out in her barangay, she said, "I had a child at that time and was pregnant with another."

"I panicked and ran, dragging my child. I didn't know where my husband was," she said. She fell into a pit but someone pulled her out of it.

"We ran all the way to a gym. It was safe there—but hard. I gave birth inside the gym. That's why I call my child Jimboy," she said.

Her family stayed at the evacuation center for about three months. And then they were allowed to go home.

"But it was no longer home for me. I was always scared, always on the lookout. The smallest sound would wake me up and send me packing. I became very short-tempered with my husband and kids," MJ said.

Given more time, she might have recovered from her horrible experience. But after a few months, "something happened again."

One night, she heard gunfire. A vehicle pulled up in front of her house and a friend told her that her father was shot.

"I rushed to my father's house. I saw him lying below the sink. He tried to run there to escape. He was bathed in blood. He had a hole in his chest where they shot him," she said.

To this day, MJ said, "I can't explain the pain I felt then and continue to feel now . . . I can't accept his death. I relive it in my mind all the time. I am filled with the desire to avenge him. I dream of him sometimes. I dream that he is hungry that's why I bring him food whenever I visit his grave."

"My husband says I have gone crazy. Sometimes people tell me I did this or I said that but I don't remember doing any of these things. I am always afraid," she said.

Fearfully, she added, "I keep hurting my children, too. Sometimes, I feel they hate me because of this. But I really love my children."

2001 survey

It was from a systematic survey conducted by the Balik Kalipay in the first quarter of 2001 that the program's workers concluded that displacement and disruption severely affect the health and well-being of people caught in armed conflict.

The Balik Kalipay found that 94 percent of the residents in six barangays in Pikit were taken out of their homes, witnessed deaths and lost properties. Twenty-two percent lost their loved ones in violent circumstances. More than one-third (35 percent) lost property while two-thirds (60 percent) lost livestock.

Two years after then President Joseph Estrada's war against the Moro rebels in 2000, more than 25 percent of the residents still exhibit signs of trauma. They are easily startled and are overly alert and vigilant, thinking that danger is just nearby. They are frequently troubled by nightmares. Seemingly small and insignificant things that remind them of the past repeatedly interrupt their thoughts.

Almost one-third (29.5 percent) of the population sample reported physical and emotional problems that interfered greatly with their daily activities.

Constant fear

It was not only the rebels that residents feared but the government soldiers as well.

Babu, 53, used to live in Barangay Balong. In 1990, she and her family, including her old parents, had to immediately leave their home. Soldiers, she said, seemed to be shooting at everyone they saw.

In the rush to evacuate, Babu did not notice that her parents, who were riding in a carabao-drawn cart, could not keep up with them. After a few hours, she and her family realized that her parents had been left behind. They went back to Balong. There they saw the dead bodies of everyone who was left behind. The bodies were dumped in a well.

In this current war, many of the evacuees refuse to return to their homes, afraid that the continued presence of soldiers in their community might provoke more encounters with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Children refuse to return to school, terrified by the sight of uniformed men in their classrooms. Some have also been witness to hostage-taking and kidnapping incidents right in their schools. Like their homes, schools in Pikit could no longer offer safety.

Young victims

In his paper, "Children of Rebels," Fr. Charlie M. Inzon used the observations made by Fr. Bert Layson, coordinator of the Parish Disaster Response Team, to conclude that youths whose parents were killed or abducted during the war would eventually "embrace the violent way" taken by their elders.

It was, he said, the children's way of coping and having control over their own lives.

In the case of Muslim children, Inzon said, "They feel empowered and fulfilled in taking up arms and assuming the cause their parents have fought and died for. This desire to get involved grows stronger when they slowly understand their oppressive condition."

Teacher volunteers of the Balik Kalipay support this observation. More noticeably, aggressive and disruptive behavior increased among Muslim and Christian pupils, a condition that did not exist before the war.

In one debriefing session I conducted with the volunteers, a teacher recounted an experience with her 9-year-old pupils. Seeking to draw out their feelings, the teacher asked a Christian student, "*Paglaki mo at naging doktor ka, at may lumapit na Muslim sa iyo, gagamutin mo ba siya?*" (When you grow up to become a doctor and a Muslim approaches you, will you treat the patient?)

The boy replied, "*Hindi. Papatayin ko pa siya!*" (No, I'll kill him!)

The stunned teacher asked a similar question to the boy's Muslim classmate: Would he treat his sick or wounded Christian classmate? The Muslim boy turned to his Christian classmate and said, "*Hindi. Papatayin din kita!*" (No, I'll also kill you!)

The teacher was so shocked she went home in tears.

In another incident, a boy was asked what he would like to be when he grows up. He answered: "*Gusto kong maging rebelde. Gusto ko kasing yumaman!*" (I want to be a rebel because I want to get rich!)

These stories are isolated ones. They show in a chilling way, however, how much distortion could happen in the minds of young children as to the true nature of the war in Mindanao.

Can we bring back their happiness?

When the Balik Kalipay first introduced its aims to the leaders, teachers and parents of Pikit, their reactions were bitter and skeptical.

I could only say what I have always said to my trauma patients: in situations where nothing is under our control, the only power left we have is the power to choose how we will react to the situation.

"You may not be able to stop the war in Mindanao but you have the will and the spirit to find the positive meaning to all that is happening. It is this positive meaning which will make you rise above the helplessness and the despair. If you allow yourself to be defeated even in your mind, you are leaving your children unprotected and unequipped to deal with this most painful time of their lives. If they see you as a model of hope in the midst of all this harshness, they, too, will be empowered to hope."

Joy through play

The Balik Kalipay trains teachers and youth volunteers to use play therapy to help Pikit children cope with the difficulties of living in a war zone. Through a series of creative activities they facilitate a child's expression of the effect of trauma on themselves and others. Structured exercises that simulate real life situations give the opportunity for the children to learn alternative and more constructive viewpoints.

The feedback from the teachers is encouraging. Even just halfway though the modules, there has been a significant increase in classroom attendance. The teachers note a much more playful and caring temperament among the children.

Among themselves, the teachers acknowledge improved patience and rapport with the children. The staff reports that in the communities, parents can often be seen enjoying themselves as they watch their children play spiritedly with our youth volunteers. At last, laughter is once again being heard.

The future

The renewed hostilities of the past few weeks have displaced many of the constituents of our program. Residents in four of our barangays have been displaced as of this writing. One serves as an evacuation center. And last night, another encounter happened near Barangay Batulawan.

In the past, these villages, whether displaced or not, were not spared from severe traumatization. This time, however, it was observed by our local team that while the residents were initially made helpless and terrified by the sudden escalation of hostilities, our teacher volunteers seem to have bounced back more quickly and shown greater composure than they have in the past.

It remains to be seen, however, if the children would be as resilient. But with the spirit and confidence that these teachers are showing in this current crisis, we have every reason to be hopeful.

Events that led to fighting between soldiers, MILF

(FOLLOWING is a chronology of events that led to another round of hostilities between government troops and Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in Pikit, North Cotabato. It was based on reports from INQUIRER *correspondents and the Mindanao Grassroots Ceasefire Review and Assessment Mission launched by the Mindanao People's Caucus in Davao City.—Ed.)*

Nov. 3, 2002: MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu warned the government against massive deployment of troops near the Liguasan Marsh; Datu Paglas, Buluan, Sultan sa Barongis and some parts of Pagalungan and Pagagawan towns in Maguindanao; and Pikit. Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, denied reports of a troops' buildup, saying soldiers were just patrolling the areas against lawless elements.

Dec. 6, 2002: Some 300 residents of Sitio Lagao, Barangay Langgapanan, Sultan sa Barongis fled their homes when fighting broke between soldiers and MILF rebels in Barangay Bulod. Residents said the village was having a "*kanduli*" (Muslim thanksgiving festival) when around 100 soldiers came and burned as least 11 houses. One civilian was wounded, while two others died in the evacuation center. One soldier, who asked not to be identified, said the attack was prompted by the presence of members of the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang and that MILF members joined the fighting.

Dec. 7, 2002: In Talayan, Maguindanao, Army soldiers picked up a barangay kagawad from his house in Barangay Muslim. The councilman's body was recovered from the nearby village of Balabag later in the afternoon. In the evening, more Army soldiers entered the village and clashed with MILF rebels. OV-10 planes also bombed Barangay Katibpuan.

Jan. 1: The presence of armed men was monitored in Datu Paglas, Maguindanao, and a day after, in Barangay Marang in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat. An MILF battalion commander confirmed the presence of 1,000 rebels in Barangay Polomolok in Columbio, and said the group came from Datu Paglas

Jan. 5: A team from the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion went to the area to investigate the reports but withdrew after civilians warned them of the presence of the armed men.

Jan. 6: Soldiers the 37th IB raided the house of a barangay chair in Takayan, Maguindanao, and proceeded to Barangay Makasampan. Lt. Col. Lopito Aceres, battalion commander, made no mention of the Katibpuan incident but admitted that the military conducted an operation in the Liguasan Marsh on Dec. 30. The 37th IB has 400 soldiers and 1,000 militiamen.

Jan. 8: Massive civilian evacuation starts. Some 1,100 Blaan and Maguindanaon families fled from seven barangays in Marang.

Jan. 9: Soldiers and rebel forces reportedly clashed in Barangays Langgapanan and Angkayamat in Sultan sa Barongis and in Midpandacan in SK Pendatun.

Jan. 9-13: The Army mounts artillery bombings, supported by waves of air strikes. Skirmishes occurred in Barangay Marang, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

Jan. 10: The MILF claimed the military launched an attack in Sultan Kudarat, purportedly to pursue Pentagon gang members.

Jan. 27: The military reported killing 17 rebels in an attack on Camp Usman, an MILF camp in the boundary of Bukidnon and Cotabato. Some 260 families have been evacuated to two barangays in Damulog, Bukidnon. The military claimed they overran Usman after almost five hours of fighting.

Feb. 6: Linda Senturias of the Mindanao People's Caucus and president of Southern Christian College in Midsayap, North Cotabato, reported that some 4,000 persons were crowding classrooms used as refugee centers in Carmen, President Roxas and Kabacan towns in North Cotabato. Senturias said children were suffering from various ailments. A woman gave birth inside an evacuation center in Barangay Cadiis, Carmen.

Feb. 7: Evacuation started in Pikit. The first wave came from Barangay Kabasalan, followed by people from Gli-gli, Rajamuda, Buliok, Bulol, Bago Ingid, Bulod, Talitay, Barongos and Inog-og. The evacuees are now living in makeshift houses along the highway in Barangay Batolawan, also in Pikit, and in the town plaza. Some are staying in *madrasah* (Muslim schools) in Bulol, Bulod and Bago Ingid.

Feb. 9: Nongovernment organizations working for families affected by armed conflicts in Pikit revealed that around 2,000 families from at least 10 barangays started leaving their homes following the buildup of military troops in the area. Dr. Ernest Guevarra, director of Balik-Kalipay, said at least five military tanks arrived the day before, as well as at least 10 truckloads of soldiers. Major Ando, Army spokesperson, confirmed the buildup because of sightings of "lawless armed group in the area."

The military reported that heavily armed MILF rebels ambushed a team of Army engineers working on a government road project near the former Camp Abubakar in Matanog, Maguindanao. One soldier was killed while seven others were wounded.

Feb. 10: At least 2,000 soldiers, backed by 20 105-howitzers, were deployed. Their commanders said they were ready to launch attacks against the MILF. More than 20,000 people have already arrived in various evacuation centers in Pikit and in Pagalungan, Maguindanao.

Feb. 11: Fighting broke out in four villages of Pikit and in Barangay Kudal, Pagalungan as the Islamic world observed the Eid'l Adha, the Day of Sacrifice. The military said MILF rebels attacked a detachment in Bulol, Pikit at around 6 a.m. But Brig. Gen. Ricardo Faustino, commander of the 3rd Tactical Operations Wing based in Zamboanga City, said air support was mobilized starting at around 5:45 a.m. At noon, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the military to stop the offensive in deference to the Islamic holiday, but clashes continued up to late afternoon. Col. Carduzo Luna, head of the 602nd Infantry Brigade, said he had not yet received the President's order. Military shelling finally stopped at 6 p.m.

Feb. 12: Fighting resumed at 12:01 a.m. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the President's order was meant only for the Eid'l Adha celebration. Besides, he said, the MILF continued its assault. *Joselle R. Badilla*

Martial law . . .

From page A1

personal feelings for Imelda as the country's Patroness of the Arts. Until Imelda, never before had the arts flourished at a consistently grand scale. It was Imelda who first thought of the government conferring the title National Artist and endowing Filipino artists with the benefits and the recognition that their counterparts abroad had long enjoyed.

The ingenious Manansala solved his problem. The result was an oil portrait on canvas measuring 91.5 cm. by 71 cm. He accorded Imelda her rightful place as the fiercely bright sun that shone upon the Filipino artist. But he did not turn a blind eye on Imelda's other faces that he believed shadowed her formidable contributions to the arts.

Imelda never saw this painting though she reportedly visited the artist in his home in Binangonan several times to inquire about it.

Manansala never put down on canvas his disgust with the despotic Marcos regime. Not its military abuses.. Not its extravagance and corruption. But with a few strokes, Manansala in his portrait of Imelda captured 20 years of the dark, duplicitous Marcos years.

Untold story of Edsa I: Bamban barricade

From page A1

commander of the then Angeles City Metropolitan District Command, had gotten wind of the soldiers' marching orders.

Determined to stop the deployment of Palafox's troops to Edsa, Espino hastily met with local leaders of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Espino had no other recourse because at the time "only the militants had the experience and the organization to mobilize a large number of people for a sustained protest action," Cato said.

Still, Espino—a 1972 graduate of the Philippine Military Academy and captor of New People's Army chief Bernabe Buscayno—was not too optimistic about the prospect of support. Bayan had boycotted the "snap" presidential election and was still deliberating whether it would back the uprising.

But an unlikely alliance was ultimately forged. Then Bayan-Pampanga chair Edgardo Pamintuan, its secretary general Alex Cauguiran and Benedicto Tiotuico agreed to mobilize the Kapampangans in blocking Bamban to protect the civilian targets at Edsa.

Takeover

Cato said that on Espino's orders, Constabulary troops took over the radio stations dwGV and the Cojuangco-owned dzYA, both in Angeles City.

The move initially stirred panic.

The takeover group, escorted by heavily armed troops under Maj. Nestor Senares, proceeded to dwGV along Miranda Street in downtown Angeles. "The people panicked when they saw the Constabulary men alight from the vehicles and position themselves outside the Jao Building," Cato recalled.

Some entered a nearby bookstore—and later emerged with yellow ribbons tied to the muzzles of their rifles.

"Upon seeing they were reformist forces, the people immediately started clapping and congratulating them," said Pamintuan, now general manager of the National Housing Authority. "The people were relieved to know that the soldiers were on their side."

From the secured radio stations, Bayan leaders called on the residents to assemble at Bamban or bring food and water to some 5,000 civilians and reformist forces already there.

Before nightfall, Cato and another Malaya correspondent, Sonny Lopez, were pulled out of Bamban and told to continue airing reformist messages and appeals to reinforce the barricade.

"Sonny and I transformed dwGV into Pampanga's version of Radio Veritas," Cato said.

His recollection of Lopez's first announcement on radio was: "This is the revolutionary government announcing the takeover of this station."

No laughing matter

By early evening, Pamintuan said, the men and women at the human barricade had numbered in the thousands—students, farmers, office workers, doctors, lawyers and other professionals.

This was not counting the hundreds of others gathered on the sides of MacArthur Highway from the commercial district of Dau to the town proper of Mabalacat.

With the huge crowd, Cauguiran said, there was "no way for the loyalist troops to make it through."

Yet tension was high in the area lighted only by torches and vehicles' headlights. The number of reformist troops was not enough to protect the barricade in case the loyalist soldiers decided to force their way.

In fact, Cato said, Cauguiran anticipated violence.

"Not only was there just a small number of reformist troops, there was also no place for the people to seek cover in that dark, desolate stretch between Mabalacat and Bamban should the situation get out of hand," Cato recalled.

Several US Air Force CH-53 helicopters more known as the Jolly Green Giants flew over the Jao Building that same night.

Still on radio, Lopez cracked a joke: "*Ayun na yata sina Marcos at mukhang dumaan na po sa atin* (It looks like Marcos and company just went past us)."

Cato said he realized seconds later that it was no laughing matter.

The choppers, bound for Clark, the base of the US 13th Air Force, were actually ferrying the members of the First Family on the first leg of what was to be their exile.

Cato and Lopez subsequently left the station and went to Bamban.

"We wanted the crowd to mass outside Clark and prevent some prominent loyalists from linking up with the Marcoses," Lopez said.

But by that time the people had heard confirmed reports that Marcos had fled Malacañang, and the human barricade had been dispersed.

"The people were already celebrating the downfall when we made it there," Cato said.

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Reyes shrugs off threats of treason raps

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday shrugged off criticisms coming his way concerning Balikatan 03-1.

Asked to comment on Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's charge of treason, Reyes said: "No. 1, [the holding of Balikatan 03-1 in Sulu] is still being discussed, so I don't think anybody can be charged for anything that has not yet been committed. No. 2, treason is a war-time offense."

Reyes has come under fire from lawmakers reacting to reports in the US media that US troops would be deployed for combat operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Pimentel said Friday that Reyes had started to turn the Philippines into a "deadly laboratory" for the testing of US troops, tactics and weapons in the South, and said this was "treason in its basest form."

Now other lawmakers from Mindanao are after Reyes' head. Pimentel and his colleagues yesterday called for a congressional investigation on Balikatan 03-1 in view of the conflicting statements of Malacañang and Pentagon officials.

House Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin said the inquiry would be a means for people and lawmakers to know the truth.

"We have to get to the bottom of the issue and take appropriate action," he said. "The Visiting Forces Agreement will be deeply examined because this may be abused."

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen said Reyes was pushing for Balikatan 03-1 at the expense of Philippine sovereignty.

"If Reyes betrayed [then President Joseph] Estrada, if he can betray the Constitution, he can also betray the people," Dilangalen said.

Reyes served as Armed Forces chief under Estrada but withdrew support from the latter at the height of People Power II.

Salapuddin said the holding of Balikatan 03-1 in Sulu was approved without prior consultation with officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and was thereby a violation of the law creating the ARMM.

"I do hope that the national leadership will realize that it is not only the ARMM law that was violated but also the very provisions of the Constitution," Salapuddin said.

Pimentel said allowing US troops to engage in combat on Philippine soil was a function that belonged to Congress.

He said violating laws had become a habit of Reyes and that if he could have his way, he would issue a hold order on Reyes to prevent the latter from going to the United States to meet with US defense officials. *Martin P. Marfil in Manila; Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

EDWIN BACASMAS

READY for whatever jumps out of the bushes, a soldier gets on the way to Tuburan, Basilan, reportedly to engage in civic activities for the community.

'Why Are We in Jolo?'

(The following is a reprint of the editorial of the Washington Post in its issue on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2003)

IN THE PAST DECADE the United States has only twice sent ground troops into combat. The first instance, in Somalia, grew out of a humanitarian operation and ended abruptly with the first US casualties. It also ended the career of the secretary of defense. The second, in Afghanistan, came in response to an attack on the United States, was approved by Congress and was thoroughly explained to the public by President Bush and his Cabinet. Over the years the threshold for putting US soldiers at risk has sometimes seemed too high: Think of the Rwandan genocide or the Balkan wars. Yet now the country appears to be drifting toward the opposite extreme. On Thursday, via a series of background briefings by unnamed spokesmen, the Pentagon casually let the public know that it intends to dispatch 1,700 Special Forces and Marines for a combat mission against Muslim guerrillas in a remote and hostile corner of the Philippines. The first American soldiers are due to arrive within days, officials said; the term of the mission is open-ended. Though dwarfed, perhaps, by the scale of the impending war with Iraq, this sounds like a substantial and potentially treacherous campaign. Yet neither the president nor any senior official has explained to the country why young Americans might need to die for this new cause—nor has Congress, which is on recess, discussed it. Whatever the merits of the Philippine operation, that is a bad start.

The administration's cavalier attitude may stem from the fact that this is the second US military deployment to the Philippines since Sept. 11, 2001. Last year about 1,300 soldiers were dispatched to the island of Basilan to advise and train Philippine units fighting the Abu Sayyaf group, an Islamic extremist organization with several hundred followers that may have connections to al Qaeda. But by the Pentagon's own account, the new mission is qualitatively different. Instead of being bound by rules allowing them to fire only in self-defense, something that happened only once in the previous deployment, American soldiers reportedly will be joining Philippine units in combat operations. "The intent is for US troops to actively participate," said one of the briefers. The terrain is also different—Abu Sayyaf has moved from Basilan to the nearby island of Jolo, a tough and nearly lawless region. It's perhaps worth remembering that US troops have already fought Muslim guerrillas on this ground, a century ago: The result was a bloody quagmire and damaging accusations of brutality by US troops.

There may be a strong case for once again putting young Americans in harm's way in the Philippine jungle. Abu Sayyaf is unquestionably a ruthless terrorist organization, and though its connections to al Qaeda and its ability to threaten the United States are not clear, it is a menace to the democratic government of the Philippines. Though its spokesmen are publicly disputing the Pentagon's account of the role to be played by US forces, the government of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo seems to have sought American assistance. By providing it, the Bush administration could help a key ally, deal a blow to terrorists and strengthen the US ability to act against the larger threat of Islamic extremism in Southeast Asia. But the administration has not made that case, either to Congress or to the public. Nor has it explained what the costs of the intervention might be and what limits there might be to it. History shows that such limits are needed when the mission is counter-insurgency in a foreign land. If the administration hasn't set them, Congress should ask for them.

(Reprinted with permission from Today)

UN inspector orders Iraq to destroy missiles

UNITED NATIONS—With diplomacy over war in Iraq reaching a crucial stage, United Nations chief weapons inspector Hans Blix ordered Iraq on Friday to destroy dozens of its Al Samoud 2 missiles because their range violate UN limits.

Blix gave Baghdad a March 1 deadline to begin the demolition. By no coincidence, that is also the date of Blix's next report to the UN Security Council on Iraqi compliance with UN demands.

The deadline was a blow for Baghdad's military as it prepares for a near-inevitable invasion by US forces. If Iraq does not destroy the missiles, the United States and Britain will argue that war against Iraq is justified for openly defying a UN order.

Washington and London are expected to submit a draft resolution on Monday to Security Council members that seeks authorization for war. Iraq's decision will likely be a factor in whether the council approves such a resolution.

Washington's goal is to achieve a minimum nine votes in the council, while avoiding a veto by France, Russia or China—three permanent members opposed to war and instead want an extension to the weapons searches.

In Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri avoided a direct response to Blix's order, saying such issues could be resolved as part of Iraq's ongoing cooperation with UN inspection teams.

"First of all, cooperation is going on and contacts are going on between the Iraqi authorities and the inspection teams," Sabri told reporters on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement summit in the Malaysian capital.

"We think all pending issues can be resolved between the two parties without any pressure being exacted on them by certain powers," he said.

'Verifiable destruction'

In a four-page letter handed over to Iraqi Ambassador Mohammed Al-Douri at UN headquarters, Blix told Iraq to turn over to inspectors "for verifiable destruction" all Al Samoud 2 missiles and warheads, SA-2 missile engines configured for use in those missiles, machinery to produce missile motors, and other components.

"The appropriate arrangements should be made so that the destruction process can commence by March 1, 2003," Blix said in the letter to Lt. Gen. Amer al-Saadi, an adviser to President Saddam Hussein.

Blix also ordered that fuel, launchers, testing equipment and all software and documentation about the Al Samoud program be destroyed—but not the factories where the missiles were built as the United States had wanted.

In its semiannual report to UN inspectors in October and in its weapons declaration in December, Iraq had declared that 13 of 40 Al Samoud 2 missiles tested went beyond the 150-km limit set by the Security Council after the 1991 Gulf War.

It maintained the missiles were tested without warheads or guidance systems, which made them lighter.

Potential to hit Israel

But in his letter, Blix said Iraq had increased the diameter of the Al Samoud in violation of a 1994 order from previous UN inspectors, and that computer simulations in four countries and the international panel of experts agreed the missile exceeded the limit.

A larger diameter means the missile has the potential to travel farther.

Iraq is allowed to have missiles which travel up to 150 km, which means it can hit neighboring Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria and Jordan—but not Israel.

"The necessary destruction is to be carried out by Iraq under" UN guidance and supervision, Blix wrote.

The inspectors "will select from a variety of methods of destruction, depending on items to be destroyed, such as explosive demolition, crushing, melting, and other physical and chemical methods."

List of issues

Stepping up the pressure on Saddam, Blix was also preparing a list of more than 35 outstanding issues surrounding Iraq's disarmament that he will present to his advisory board of commissioners when they meet on Monday at the UN headquarters. *AP, Reuters*

White House: It is true

From page A1

fensive operations."

In its editorial of Feb. 22, the Washington Post questioned the Pentagon's "casual" announcement that "it intends to dispatch 1,700 Special Forces and Marines for a combat mission against Muslim guerrillas in a remote and hostile corner of the Philippines."

The newspaper said the Abu Sayyaf was "unquestionably a ruthless terrorist organization" but acknowledged that "its connections to al-Qaida and its ability to threaten the United States are not clear."

It said "there may be a strong case for once again putting young Americans in harm's way in the Philippine jungle."

"But the administration has not made that case, either to Congress or to the public. Nor has it explained what the costs of the intervention might be and what limits there might be to it." *See complete text, above right.*

Only assistance

In the Sulu capital of Jolo, Defense Secretary Reyes met with local officials and community leaders and reiterated that the US soldiers would only be assisting and advising Filipino troops in the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf.

But the residents attending the forum remained unconvinced, concerned about the effects that the US deployment would have on the strife-torn island.

Reyes said details for the deployment had not yet been finalized but that Filipino soldiers would be "assisted by American equipment and technology," including helicopters, in hunting the Abu Sayyaf.

In Manila, Bunye said even media giants like CNN could fall for *kuryente* once in a while.

Speaking in Filipino, Bunye said in an interview over dzMM: "I think there's a minor official in the Pentagon who, like what also happens here, makes it appear that he knows everything but really doesn't know what he's talking about. CNN bought the story, so even CNN can also get taken for a ride."

Bunye insisted that Balikatan 03-1 in Sulu would be a "joint training exercise" similar to last year's Balikatan 02-1 in Basilan.

He said that the coming exercise would be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, that the US forces would be under the direct supervision of the Philippine military at all times, and that all their operations and activities would be coordinated with Sulu officials.

"The bottom line here is that there will be no aggressive combat role for American troops in Sulu," he stressed.

Asked if Malacañang would ask the US defense department to correct the media reports, Bunye said the Palace's explanation was sufficient for now. "If this report about the unnamed source continues, we will make a stronger denial," he said.

Bunye also pointed out that lawmakers who were quick to denounce the alleged secret deal between the Philippine and US governments had based their complaint on mere media reports quoting an unnamed source.

"We hope our legislators would not just ride on the issue because in the first place, the source was not even identified," he said.

The US troops participating in Balikatan 03-1 have started to arrive even as Reyes has yet to leave for the United States to finalize details with his American counterpart Donald Rumsfeld.

On Thursday, an advance team of 12 Green Berets arrived in Zamboanga City for training to start next week. An estimated 60 more US soldiers are expected.

On Wednesday, Ms Macapagal said she had wanted Balikatan 03-1 to be held at the Southern Luzon Command headquarters in Lucena, Quezon. She did not explain her original preference, but Solcom is in charge of anti-insurgency operations in the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions.

Insult

In Cotabato City, Ibrahim Ibay, legislative assembly speaker of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the President should have first consulted ARMM officials and members of the Regional Peace and Order Council before she approved the holding of Balikatan 03-1 in Sulu.

"This is an insult to us because we are autonomous," Ibay said. "We [RPOC members] have agreed on and passed a resolution asking the President to consult the people of Sulu."

Ibay said that while they were in support of Balikatan, some of their constituents in Sulu were against it for historical reasons.

In 1907, US soldiers led by Gen. Leonard Wood killed over a thousand Tausug men, women and children on Bud Dahu in Patikul town.

In Manila, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel assailed Philippine and US authorities for their decision to hold Balikatan 03-1 in Sulu without prior consultation.

He said the two governments displayed "utter disregard" for the people of Sulu as well as a misunderstanding of local culture and history.

He noted that even ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin, a Tausug from Sulu, had been in the dark about the plan to hold the latest war games there.

Pimentel also said the people of Sulu would view the US deployment as an intrusion.

"Having the Balikatan in Sulu is like poking one's finger into a hive of African bees with one's arm and face bare, inviting ready retaliation," he said. INQUIRER *wires; Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

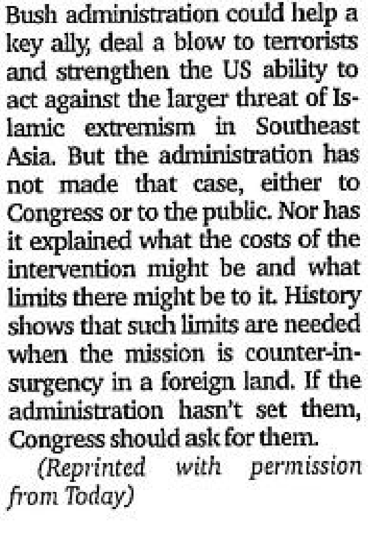
Bush lobbying votes for new UN resolution

US President George W. Bush and his top aides are busy lobbying before other members of the United Nations Security Council in an effort to seek their votes on a new council resolution Washington and London are preparing.

Bush set off the lobbying round with a phone call from his ranch in Texas to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, expressing support for the Security Council's role in the Iraq crisis.

Secretary of State Colin Powell also sought support for the resolution from foreign ministers of four Security council nations on Friday.

The day before, Powell had said the wording of the resolution was still under review but it would make clear Iraq had not fulfilled UN requirements for it to scrap weapons of mass destruction in its arsenal.


BUSH: At home in his Texas ranch but busy on the phone

"Given the fact that this is in reality the 18th resolution (on Iraq) President (Bush) does not think there needs to be a 19th. So this is a very important moment for the United Nations to decide whether or not it will act," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters.

Bush was to host Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, one of his strongest supporters on Iraq in the Security Council and Nato, for dinner and an overnight stay at his ranch. *AP, Reuters*

WHERE EDSA I BEGAN

From page A1

On his last day in the US in August 1983 before leaving for Manila and his appointment with history, Ninoy Aquino went to the church near his home in Newton outside Boston, accompanied by Jose Calderon, Heherson Alvarez and Kiyoshi Wakamiya, a Japanese journalist who went with him all the way to Manila. Alvarez recalled that Ninoy told him he believed he could be gunned down by a sniper.

On this 17th anniversary of our first People Power revolution, it is only fitting to remember the man who started the journey for us.

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Sunday SPORTS

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A TOUCH OF HISTORY

Mabuhay wins PAL Friendship crown

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

DAVAO CITY—Mabuhay Golf Club of San Francisco, California, armed with a footnote of history, won the Friendship Division yesterday in the 17th PAL Seniors Interclub here.

Hector Montes, son of the 13-time Philippine Open champion Larry Montes, helped power Mabuhay to the top as the balikbayans from the Bay Area beat Philippine Navy for the crown.

Montes fired 33 points for Mabuhay, whose title-clinching effort was anchored through on the 47 of Tom Culligan (7-over-par 79) at Lanang. The other scorers were Gerry Sy with 35, Ricardo Tan 33 and James Gillete 30 for 178=387 to beat Navy (367) by 20. Palos Verdes was third with 158=357.

The late Larry Montes, who broke barriers in the American-dominated RP golf setting in the pre-war days, migrated to the United States after dominating the RP Open for almost three decades from the '30s.

Defending champion Luisita took the lead in the Championship Division with 233 points, the same output of newcomer Taiwan.

The Manila Southwoods led the Founders Division over Valley and Orchard, the joint-second placers with 229s, with Pueblo de Oro next at 224 and Cebu Country Club at 223.

Tied at 220 were the Manila Golf Club of Forbes Park Makati and Riviera of Silang, Cavite in the tournament sponsored by, among others, Airbus, ABS-CBN International, Air Philippines, Fortune Tobacco, 105.1 Crossover, MTV Philippines, Joey 92.3, PLDT, Premiere Wine Spirits, RMN, Royal Caribbean, UMBN/Mindanao Times and Pilipinas Shell. Apo View Hotel, TaylorMade adidas and 96.3 Wrock are the corporate sponsors, with Asia Brewery and Sporteum Philippines as supporters. The Marco Polo is the tournament's official hotel.

Ken Onda led Southwoods with 53, followed by Robin Moyer with 48, Butch Brodette 48, Fred Carandang 46 and Floren delos Santos 44 for a 239 and a 10-point lead in the Founders.

Valley leaned on the heroics of Boni Sumbilla with 50, Art Fontanilla 49, Bong de Leon 46, Luis Gonzales 43 and either of the 41s of Neteng Virata and Geno Chuttick.

Orchard's 229 came from Andy Vasquez with 54, Seno Kato 47, Peter Clark 44, Mel Malabanan 44 and either of the 40s of Vic Florentino and Urbi Burgos.

Scoring big for Manila Golf Club was Earl McCarthy with 48, followed by Dodo Cu-Unjing 47, Joey Stevens and Joey Yujuico 42s and Alex Prieto 41. Prieto, the many-time national player, was the captain of the RP Ladies Team to the 1996 World Golf Championship.

Riviera's top scorers were Cmdr. Danny Pizarro and Philip Judan with 46 apiece, followed by Charlie Tanega with 43, Frank Puzon 43 and Ben Lidican 42. Not counting in the eight-to-play, five-to-count format were Frank Manalo 38, Benny Gopez 37 and Pastor Zamesa 30.

There is a record field of 68 teams in the Seniors ending today at both Lanang and Palos Verdes and 77 squads in the Men's Regular set for Feb. 26-March 1 at Apo and Palos Verdes.

GERRY Palermo of Lanang (left) studies the line of his putt during yesterday's 17th PAL Seniors Interclub. ROGER MARGALLO

What's in a name or why we are to 'blame'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

DAVAO CITY—I've heard it said a thousand times and one. The PAL Interclub always gives premium to the winner of the Championship Division. Or, to be more precise, the spotlight always falls on the action happening in the Championship Division. Usually, the champion in this division corners the biggest media mileage of the PAL Interclub.

In a sense, that's true. The other divisions (Founders, Friendship and Sportswriters) always take the so-called back seat in terms of publicity since the tournament began 55 years ago.

Organizers are not to blame but us, the sports journalists.

We really take pains publicizing the exploits of players in the Championship Division. Always, those in the other divisions-Founders, Friendship and Sportswriters-are not normally given enough publicity. And yet, participants in these divisions are also covered by the same rules applicable to those playing in the Championship Division.

The issue was raised anew during the captains meeting. A player who flew in from San Francisco, California, complained:

"I've been joining the PAL Interclub for years now. But I notice we always get little publicity because we are not in the Championship Division. Always, the Championship Division hogs the media limelight during every PAL Interclub."

His gripe is valid. You travel thousands of miles to join a tournament as prestigious as the PAL Interclub but unfortunately, you hardly see your name in the newspapers. Why, that's really unfair.

Someone suggested that instead of calling it the Championship Division, "let's call it the Mabuhay Division. That way, we all sound as if we are of equal footing. The word championship seems to make us second-class."

It makes sense. But in the end, my fellow sportswriters will still give the Mabuhay Division the lion's share in the media mileage because it is in that division where the top guns of the tournament are listed. By top guns, we mean either the scratch players or the low handicappers.

In short, as our general rule, the premier division always seems to enjoy star billing when it comes to publicity - for obvious reasons. You don't give preferential treatment to the mediocre over the brilliant, will you? For example, a barangay basketball tournament will never be a bigger story than a PBA All-Filipino game.

But on my part, I always make it a point whenever space permits that I print all the names of the teams and players entered in the PAL Interclub. It is only when deadline and the difficult job of collating the results conspire that I find it impossible to do this task of gargantuan magnitude.

Still, I'll keep on trying. For the love of the game. And PAL Interclub.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Ateneo de Manila captured the SBP and Passerelle plums in the Milo BEST Center-organized 3rd National Finals in Davao City. Also today in 1993, Rolando Pascua stopped Rey Paciones in the sixth round to snare the Philippine bantamweight title in Davao City.

Negrido nips Garcia, bags Samsung title

CAPPED by an exciting sudden-death duel between Montessori's Nonoy Negrido and Cebu Center for International Education's Bayani Garcia for the overall individual crown, the revival of the Samsung National Interscholastics golf tournament came to a successful close with Ateneo, La Salle-Greenhills, Sto. Nino Learning Center and the Poveda "C" team completing the roster of team champions.

The LSGH squad made up of Ian Intal, Andy Ugarte, Kevin Lachica and Magnum Bakunawa wound up with the touranment-best total of 265 in running away with the high school division plum, beating sister squad La Salle-Zobel by 16 points at the Villamor Golf Club course.

Ateneo, however, claimed two of the five divisions, sweeping both college titles as John Gobing, Vendrick, Simon Valerio and Juan Martirez beat their La Salle rivals by 23 points for the men's plum and Ada de Claro, Claudine Joyce Chan, Celeste Gomez and Crystal Amores emerged unchallenged in the ladies side.

The Asistio brothers, Antonio, Gabriel and Anelo representing Sto. Nino Learning Center coasted to victory in the boys grade school, routing a hapless Ateneo side while Nicole Clara Serapio, Charlene Marie Abalos and Isabella Marie Pineda making up Poveda "C" won the girls elementary crown by four.

Negrido of MCA-Montessori provided the highlight of the tourney backed by Gatorade, Fila, Custom Clubmakers, Greg Norman by Planet Sports and Hotshots, Flame-Grilled Burgers when he turned back the long-hitting Garcia of the Center for International Education on the second extra hole of a playoff for the overall individual title.

Sy PBL chair again

Dennis U. Eroa

ELATED with his performance, the PBL board Friday night gave Dioceldo Sy a fresh one-year mandate as chair.

Sy, owner of Blu Detergent, won unopposed during the annual elections held at the Manila Peninsula. This will be the fourth straight year that Sy will chair the PBL since replacing Robert Kuan in 2000.

"A bigger and more exciting PBL," Sy told the Inquirer when asked to reveal his plans.

Sy also said that Chino Trinidad will remain as commissioner. The Sy-Trinidad partnership is being credited for the league's new-found popularity.

Tommy Ong remains as deputy commisioner.

Raymond Yu of Welcoat Paints also won as vice-chair, following the decision of Hapee-Dazz's owner Cecilio Pedro to beg off from the post.

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Alaska, Sta. Lucia clash in PBA opener today

GAME TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
6 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia Realty

By June Navarro

AFTER months of reinventing itself, the Philippine Basketball Association opens its 29th season today at the Araneta Coliseum with the expected novelty and grandeur not found during the league's past editions.

The innovations conjured by an aggressive commissioner, a set of dynamic officers manning the PBA board and a new television coveror–will be put to the test as the league aims once again to become the biggest entertainment vehicle in the country.

The product of PBA Commissioner Noli Eala's imagination, with the blessings of the board led by PBA chair Jun Cabalan, will be unveiled beginning 4 p.m. today (opening ceremonies) and beamed live over NBN-4 and IBC-13.

Immediately after his ascension to the post, Eala promised to give the PBA a fresh face, adding new dimensions particularly on bringing the league back to the fans through efficient marketing and coverage.

The opening game between Sta. Lucia Realty and Alaska at 6 p.m. will be the centerpiece of today's festivities as both teams are bound to make an impact primarily due to their massive build-up in the off-season.

But much of the attention will be on Kenneth Duremdes, the PBA superstar whom the Alaska Aces traded to the Sta. Lucia Realtors, a move that rocked the league during the rookie draft last month.

The 6-foot-3 Duremdes, said to be the backbone of the Aces' championship escapades in the past five years, was shipped to the Realtors in exchange for two draft picks in the rookie lottery.

The 1998 PBA MVP will work in tandem with the Realtors' twin towers–Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino–under a new setup installed by coach Alfrancis Chua, who was tapped to replace Norman Black and reorganize Sta. Lucia's championship agenda.

Sweet-shooting Paolo Mendoza, Jason Webb, Francis Adriano, Chito Victolero, rookie Leo Bat-og and Allan Yu also form part of Chua's offensive rotation.

On the other side, the Aces made up for the loss of Duremdes by infusing new blood into its veins.

Rookies Mike Cortez, Brandon Lee Cablay, Eugene Tejada and Stephen Padilla were taken in to fill in the void left by Duremdes.

Cortez, this year's top rookie pick, will partner with Cablay, Rob Duat and John Arigo in the backcourt while Ali Peek, Don Allado, Don Camaso and EJ Feihl assume responsibility in manning the slot.

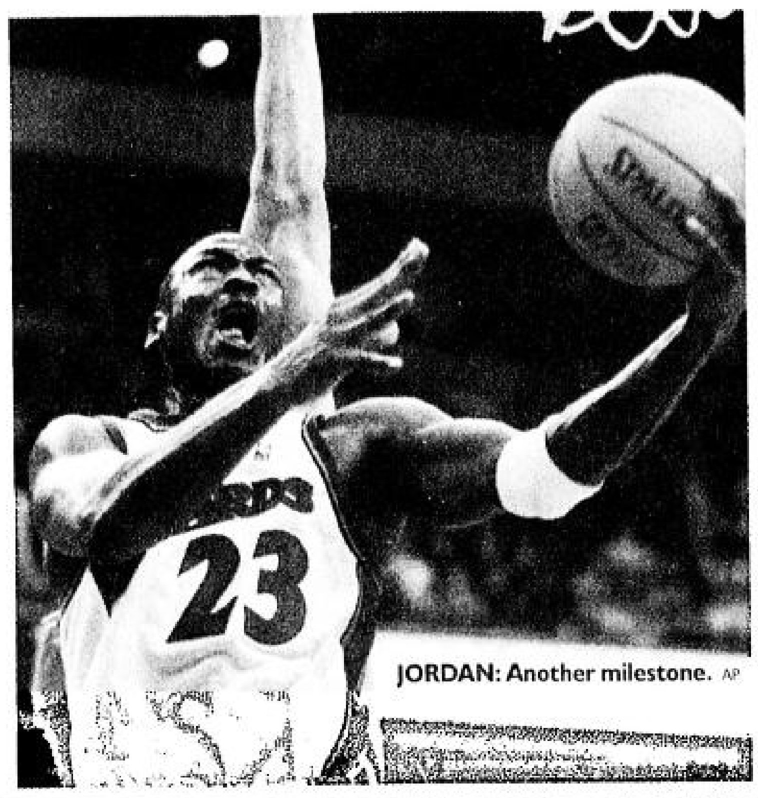
Showbiz personalities led by Edu Manzano and Vina Morales will host the opening ceremonies. Morales will impart a song-and-dance number to the fans together with Karylle and Andrew E.

Lhuillier trips Spring, 63-53

FAVORED M. Lhuillier-Kwarta Padala of Cebu banked on four ex-PBA stars to beat Interclub champion Spring Cooking Oil of Malabon, 63-53, at Friday's opening of the Luzon leg of the NBL (National Basketball League) regional championship at the Tinga gym in Taguig.

Mike Orquillas and Nonoy Falcasantos knocked in 16 and 11 points, respectively, while Bonel Balingit and Zaldy Realubit had eight and seven as the Jewellers took control as early as halftime, 29-19.

In the other games, Pampanga's University of Assumption toppled Mandaluyong's Wang's-Ball Club, 88-80, and host Forward Taguig at 2 p.m., Ozamiz-Shineway against Spring at 3:30 and Pampanga-UA against Lhuillier-Kwarta Padala at 5.



JORDAN: Another milestone. AP

Jordan 1st 40-year-old to score 40 or more pts

WASHINGTON—Four days after turning 40, Michael Jordan scored 43 points in 43 minutes.

Jordan became the first 40-year-old in NBA history to score 40 or more points, also hitting the game-winning shot as the Washington Wizards beat the New Jersey Nets 89-86 Friday night.

Already the oldest player in NBA history to score 40, Jordan made 18 of 30 shots and 7 of 8 free throws. He also made the hustle move of the night, sprawling on the floor to save the ball after making a steal in the first quarter.

Jordan's driving layup with 34 seconds to play put Wizards ahead 87-86. Jerry Stackhouse, an 87 percent foul shooter who was 0-for-4 from the line to that point, made a pair to finish the scoring as the Wizards broke a six-game losing streak to the Atlantic Division leaders.

The victory came at a crucial time for the Wizards, who had dropped three of four and had just lost their third-leading scorer, Larry Hughes, for three weeks with a sprained ankle.

Jordan even survived a hit to his left eye with 1:30 to play, requiring the Wizards to spend a timeout. He made one of two free throws to tie the score at 84.

Aaron Williams' hook shot put the Nets ahead by two, and Christian Laettner made one of two free throws to cut the lead to one. Then Jordan drove aggressively to the basket to put the Wizards ahead for good.

Richard Jefferson scored 25 points to lead the Nets.

Jordan hit the 40-point mark on two free throws with 4:09 to play, giving the Wizards an 81-79 lead. During one stretch, Jordan scored 16 of the Wizards' 20 points, including eight in a row to start the second half.

The game was action-packed. Jordan made two poke steals in the first quarter, taking the first one in for a two-handed dunk and diving on the court to save the second one from going out of bounds near midcourt.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Orlando 110, Chicago 96; Toronto 92, Phoenix 89; Washington 89, New Jersey 86; Philadelphia 119, Cleveland 99; Dallas 100, Houston 85; Minnesota 103, Detroit 96; New Orleans 125, Memphis 123 (OT); Golden State 111, New York 107; LA Lakers 92, Portland 84; Seattle 88, Milwaukee 58. *Reuters*

SPORTSWATCH

Howell takes charge

PACIFIC PALISADES, California—Charles Howell III climbed into a one shot lead after the second round of the $4.5-million Nissan Open on Friday with a six-under-par 65 at the Riviera Country Club. Howell, on eight-under 134, leads Zimbabwe's Nick Price with defending champion Len Mattiace a further shot behind. Rich Beem, the winner of the 2002 PGA Championship, is alone in fourth on 138. David Duval, first-round leader Fred Funk, Duffy Waldorf, Trinidad's Stephen Ames and Korea's K.J. Choi are on three-under 139. World number one Tiger Woods vaulted into contention with a three-under 68 that leaves him in a tie for 10th on two-under 140. *Reuters*

Athletics marks fall

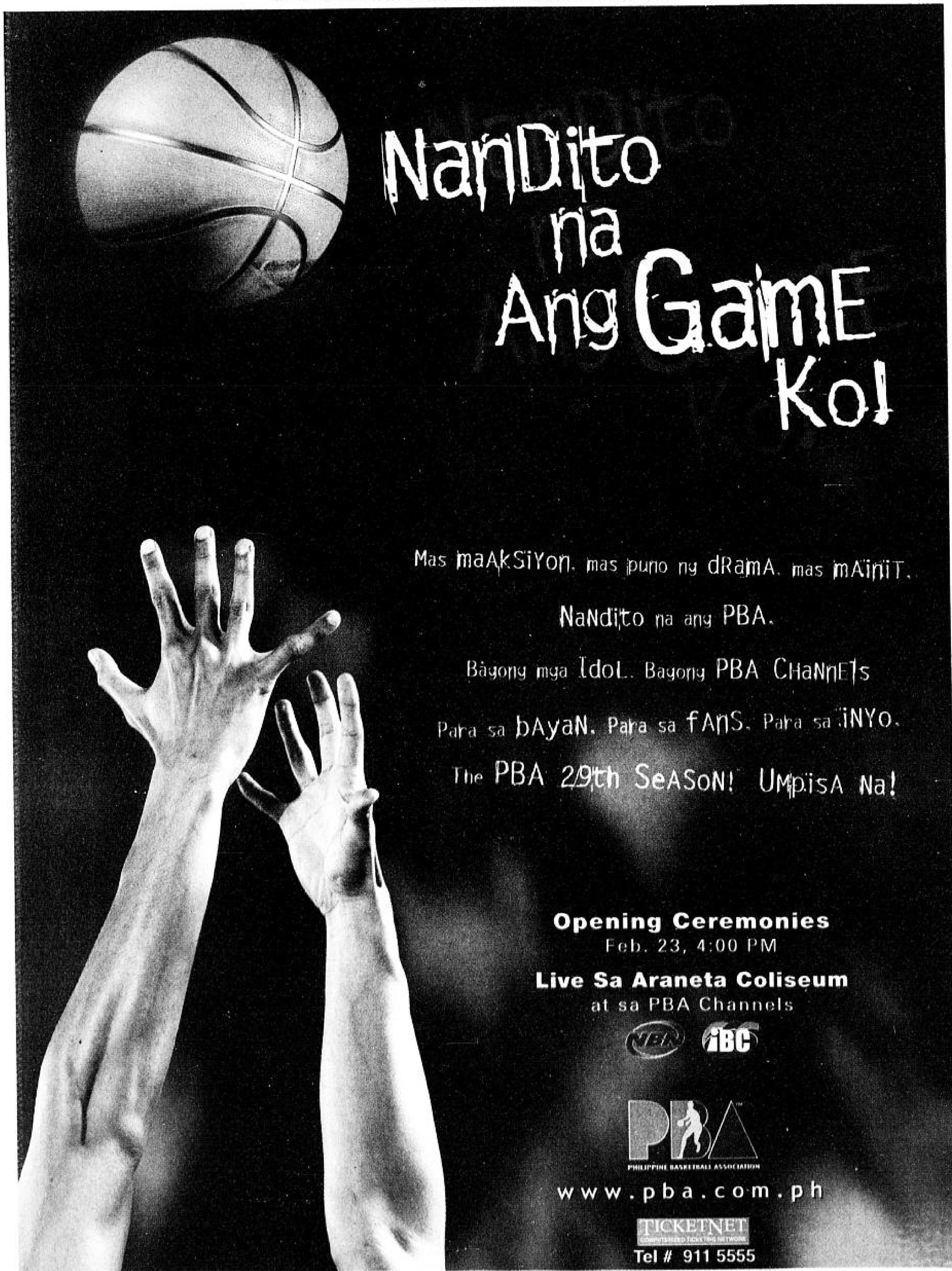
BIRMINGHAM, England—Ethiopia's double Olympic champion Haile Gebrselassie set a new two-mile world record of 8 minutes and 4.69 seconds in the British Grand Prix, the third of four Euro Series meetings here on Friday night. The 10,000 champion of the last two Olympics easily beat the former mark of countryman Haylu Mekonnen who ran 8:09.66 in the same National Indoor Arena three years ago. In his first race since winning 100,000 dollars for a world record time in a 10km road race last December, Gebrselassie collected another 50,000 dollars for this effort. Russia's 22-year-old Svetlana Feofanova also broke the women's indoor polevault world record with 4.77m, having also set the previous mark of 4.76m on February 3 in Glasgow, Scotland. *AFP*

It's Justine vs Monica

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Top seed Justine Henin-Hardenne and fourth seed Monica Seles advanced to the final of the Dubai Open in contrasting fashion on Friday. Henin-Hardenne struggled for two hours 25 minutes before edging third seed Jennifer Capriati 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, while a thigh injury forced defending champion Amelie Mauresmo to retire at 2-2 in the second set after Seles won the first 6-3. Capriati pressured her Belgian opponent from beginning to end, with her blistering groundstrokes, speed around the court and placement of the ball. But she also showed a lack of concentration and gave away points at crucial stages. Henin-Hardenne, who was steadier throughout, said she had expected a tough match. *Reuters*

'Love Run' listing reset

DUE to numerous requests, the deadline for registration for the PCPI 2nd "Love Run" set March 2 at the Quirino Grandstand has been reset to Thursday, Feb. 27. Interested participants for this charity project sanctioned by the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association may register with race director Rudy Biscocho at 51 Annapolis St., Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. with tel. no. 727-9987 or at the PCPI office at Sacred Heart St., Makati (in front of YMCA-Makati), Tel. no. 895-1786. Registration is P100 for the 3K class and P150 for the 5K and 10K divisions in this event backed up by Fe S. Panlilio Jewellers as major sponsor, Department of Tourism headed by Sec. Richard Gordon, Philippine Basketball League, Crystal Spring, Blu Star Detergents, Blue Cross and Welcoat Paints.



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VICTORY RIDE
Players give coach Johnny Tam a victory ride after Talk N Text-National Pool A beat Sta. Lucia-Cusa, 91-87, Friday night to win the inaugural Bert Lina Six-Feet and Above junior basketball championship yesterday at the Adamson Gym. Tam's charges went undefeated in eight games, sweeping Sta. Lucia-Cusa in the best-of-three title series.

Tyson faces Etienne today

TYSON

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Eight months after Lennox Lewis gave him a brutal beating, Mike Tyson returns to the same ring Saturday night trying to resurrect his career against a fellow ex-con who has trouble staying upright.

After a silly week that did more to spark interest in the fight than it deserves, the newly tattooed Tyson goes into the ring in desperate need of a spectacular knockout if he wants future fights with Lennox Lewis or Evander Holyfield.

If Tyson can't beat Etienne, it could be the beginning of the end for a tumultuous yet always interesting reign of a man who was once the most feared heavyweight around.

The fight is scheduled for 10 rounds, but if it goes that far, even Tyson's handlers acknowledge they may have to reassess the fighting future of the puncher who once terrorized the division.

"He not only has to win, but he has to win strong," said Showtime executive Jay Larkin, whose network has helped bankroll Tyson's fights since he was released from prison in 1995.

To ensure that he does win, promoters came up with what they believe to be a perfect opponent in Etienne–a raw fighter who stands in front of his opposition and isn't afraid to trade punches.

Even better is that Etienne tends to go down after he's hit with those punches–seven times in one fight alone against soft-hitting Fres Oquendo.

Etienne shouldn't have much trouble spotting Tyson's temple. On the left side is a tattoo inspired by a Maori tribal design that's supposed to indicate Tyson is a warrior.

No one doubts that, but he's an aging warrior who was beaten and battered before being stopped in the eighth round by Lewis on June 8. Tyson took his beating like a man, but it raised questions about his future in a division now populated by heavyweights much bigger than he is.

The 36-year-old Tyson managed to land only 49 punches against Lewis and seemed unable to throw more than one punch at a time. But Lewis fought on the outside, while Etienne will be right in front of Tyson and ready to be hit. *AP*

SPORTSTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Nuggets vs Jazz (Game 5, 1994 W. Conf. Semis), 9:30 a.m. (r - 11 p.m.), Hawks vs Clippers, 11:30 a.m. (r - 8 p.m.), Solar Sports

POOL: Rack 'Em Up, 11 p.m., Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP Kroger St. Jude, 1 p.m., Star Sports

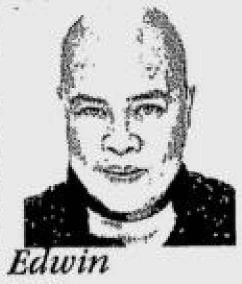
GOLF: Nissan Open, 4 p.m., Star Sports

SOCCER: Premlership Extra, 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. (r), Star Sports

EPL, 9 a.m., Star Sports, 11 a.m., 10:55 p.m. and midnight, ESPN

Myther's prediction

ONE WINNER



Edwin Villanueva

MYTHER Buñag, the more popular of Security Master's co-owners, is requesting me to be at Santa Ana today.

You see, I seldom go to the races but when it's somebody like Myther telling me to sit beside him at his favorite spot in the VIP room and watch the races from there, I can't say no at all.

Myther, the buoyant businessman from Malate, is one of our few horseowner-friends who finds time to invite us to Santa Ana or San Lazaro whenever big races are in the offing. Just like Hermie Esguerra, Putch Puyat, Sandy Javier, Rudy Mendoza and Philracom boss Jimmy Dilag.

Brimming with optimism, Myther said Security Master is "patok" in the First Leg Road to Triple Crown race (1,600 meters) this afternoon. "*Walang katalutalo. Iikot lang yan,*" he boldly predicted.

Security Master has been billed as top-pre-race pick in the 5:30 p.m. outing where he is facing some of this year's candidates for the Triple Crown series kicking off on May 25.

Two weeks ago, Security Master debuted as a three-year-old, manhandling his rivals at the very same track where he won the Juvenile Championship last year.

If there's anyone from today's lineup who can challenge Security Master for the P450,000 first prize, Myther tagged Hermie's entry High Octane, 2002's leading two-year-old with three major stakes victories under his belt.

But things may turn out different this time. If Val Dilema is handling Security Master again, High Octane has been partnered with a stronger, more aggressive rider in Dhunoy Raquel Jr., the powerhouse Hermie Esguerra Stable's top jockey.

In the last Juvenile Championship, experts said jockeys made the difference as Dilema completely outhustled Lyndon Guce to lift Security Master (Khozaam-Milrose) to a one-length win over High Octane (Hazm-Rosegardenqueen).

"*Tinalo na namin yan* (High Octane). *Malay natin makaulit,*" said Myther.

See you all at Santa Ana today!

* * *

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or sports@inquirer.com.ph

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Tora Tora 2. Top Most 3. Miracle Toffee

Race 2--1. Kokopelli 2. Prince Nicholas 3. Propensity/Genesis Two 4. Ruby's Folley 5. Ponchito

Race 3--1. Schwarzenegger 2. Naughty

Race 4--1. Petro Dollar 2. Kiss Me Quick 3. Stradivarlus 4. Grace and Fortune 5. Enjoy the Moment

Race 5--1. Patutina 2. Dot Com 3. Valentine Dancer 4. Princely Native 5. Well Noted

Race 6--1. Scenic Splendour 2. Cee Note 3. Dancer's Bid

Race 7--1. Nakagayak 2. Lucky Choice 3. Perfect Gift 4. Pride of Cebu 5. Hotrod

Race 8--1. High Octane 2. Security Master 3. Success Story 4. Savvy Lad

Race 9--1. Golden Prince 2. Roppongi 3. Dressed to Impress 4. Tenacity 5. Techno Blues

Race 10--1. Hearts on Fire 2. El Magnifico 3. Magara 4. Midnight Caper

Race 11--1. Mrs. Big 2. Hacker 3. Roxburry Lass 4. Lucky Dancer 5. Sheer Courage

Race 12--1. King Rick 2. Favorite Girl 3. Princess Inn 4. Sekreta 5. Lady Magallanes

Race 13--1. Silver Angel 2. American Beauty 3. Despedida 4. Stock Rising 5. Time for Miracles 6. Strong Contender

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Moneylender slain in QC

MONEYLENDER Abraham Manganip was found dead in his store in Quezon City yesterday. Manganip, 53, of Sarmiento Village, Barangay Banlot, was hacked to death, said SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda. His wife Norma found his body inside the store at 6:55 a.m. The victim's daughter Shanda Rae told police that the victim's wallet containing an undetermined amount of cash was missing. *Alcuin Papa*

Police rescue S. Korean diplomat from robbers

By Leila Salaverria

A SOUTH Korean diplomat on Friday was rescued from two suspected robbers who slapped his face and threatened him with a toy gun.

Lee Yong Soo, whom police identified as the third secretary of the South Korean Embassy, was walking along the Ayala-Legaspi underpass in Makati City at around 7 p.m. when two men approached him and tried to rob him, investigation showed.

One of the men allegedly slapped Lee's face and yanked off his eyeglasses. The suspects then poked a gun at the diplomat and ordered him to give his valuables to them.

Fortunately for Lee, police officers PO1 Francis Salgado and PO1 Ruel Esceta, who were then stationed at the nearby Canadian embassy, saw what was taking place and came to the dignitary's rescue.

The lawmen were able to nab one of the suspects, Ernesto G. Frago, 51, of Parañaque City. The other suspect escaped, police said.

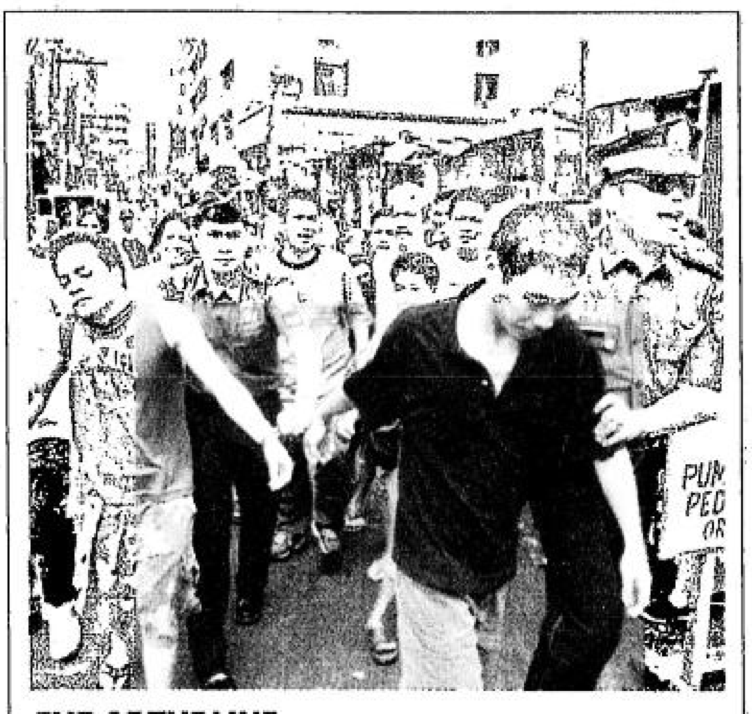
A toy gun, which was used to scare Lee, was recovered from Frago. The suspect was taken to the Makati Police headquarters.

It was not clear whether any of the suspects had actually taken anything from Lee. But the police said that Lee is considering withdrawing the charges against the suspect.

Last year, Chung Young-ho, also a third secretary of the South Korean embassy, was found dead in Marikina several days after he was reported missing in Makati. Police believed that the suspects drugged the Korean before robbing him.

Police said Chung choked to death while he was unconscious.

A few weeks later, police were able to arrest Rodrigo Fabricante, the alleged leader of the robbery gang that victimized Chung.



END OF THE LINE

It may be the end of the line for suspected snatchers Jonathan San Pedro and Bernard Salcedo, after Manila policemen under Supt. Elmer Jamias arrested them in Divisoria, Manila.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

BMW driver: Drunk with no valid license

By Agnes Donato

DRUNK with no valid license.

Authorities on Thursday announced this finding on the driver of the BMW car which hit and injured five stüdents on the sidewalk at the UP Diliman Tuesday night.

A medical report issued by doctors at the Quirino Memorial Medical Center showed that Richard Ong, 24, as well as his cousin and passenger, Dick Kenneth Soriano, was drunk when the black BMW car Ong was driving plowed through the victims in front of the Kamia Residence Hall.

The car itself was found to have a delinquent registration.

A check with the Land Transportation Office bared that the BMW (BPS 111) was registered to an Atty. Ma. Grace Lechelle Soriano Bonifacio, of San Carlos City, Pangasinan.

The car's registration has expired last Jan. 7.

Ong's temporary driver's license, which was issued last Dec. 17, was rendered invalid a day before the accident took place.

Charges of reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property with multiple physical injuries and driving a motor vehicle with delinquent registration were filed against Ong before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Police charged Ong for the injury of UP students Meryl Cristina Antonio, 19, Precious Baldo, 21, Gwendolyn Puyat, 17, Gian Carla Ambrosio, 17, and Jerry Hipol, 19.

Ong was likewise held accountable for hurting Arnel dela Cruz, 38, driver of a tricycle that was hit by the BMW car, and his passengers Apolonio Espiritu, 39, and Annalie Espiritu, 37.

It was learned that the BMW had also bumped a Mitsubishi Lancer (UNY 952) and a Honda motorcycle (UB 2640) after it hit the students who were then on the driveway of the dormitory.

The victims are still confined in separate hospitals and have yet to show signs of recovery at press time.

Jail awaits Taytay mayor

By Volt Contreras

TAYTAY, Rizal Mayor June "Jojo" Zapanta was sentenced to a prison term of four to 20 months after the Sandiganbayan found him guilty of arbitrarily detaining 80-year-old laborer Simeon Osum in June 2000.

The anti-graft court's Fourth Division also ordered Zapanta to pay Osum P10,000 in damages.

Court records showed that Zapanta had ordered Osum detained at the Taytay police station for six hours "'without a legal ground."

The records said that Osum was one of the laborers renovating the Exodus Day Care Center on Samuel Street when the mayor and his security aides arrived at the site at about 11 a.m. on June 13, 2000.

For no declared reason, the mayor's escorts who are supposedly local policemen kicked and destroyed Osum's freshly-laid hollow blocks.

In the ensuing argument, Zapanta's aides choked Osum, and the mayor himself taunted the laborer and had him handcuffed.

The aides then dragged Osum into an L300 van and brought him to the police station where he was detained for six hours without any formal charge being filed against him.

Osum was released after the station chief received a phone call from someone who explained that there was no ground for Zapanta's order to detain Osum.

During trial, it was revealed that Osum and two other laborers were the subject of the complaint for malicious mischief filed by Fe Escalante, president of the Exodus Parents-Teachers Association who opposed the renovation. But the complaint was filed only three hours after Osum was detained.

The Sandiganbayan ruled that Zapanta failed to show any "justification" for the warrantless arrest. It was also not established if Osum had committed malicious mischief against Escalante.

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[illegible]

In Makati, fitness buffs get to have a hot place to trot

By Leila Salaverria

JOGGERS and other fitness buffs in Makati will have the run of the inner lanes of the Ayala Triangle every Sunday, once the city council approves draft ordinance 2003-009.

The draft ordinance, which insiders say is bound to be passed without any opposition, identifies the inner lanes of the intersection of Ayala Avenue, Makati Avenue and Paseo de Roxas, as "an ideal activity area" for physical fitness activities like jogging or strolling.

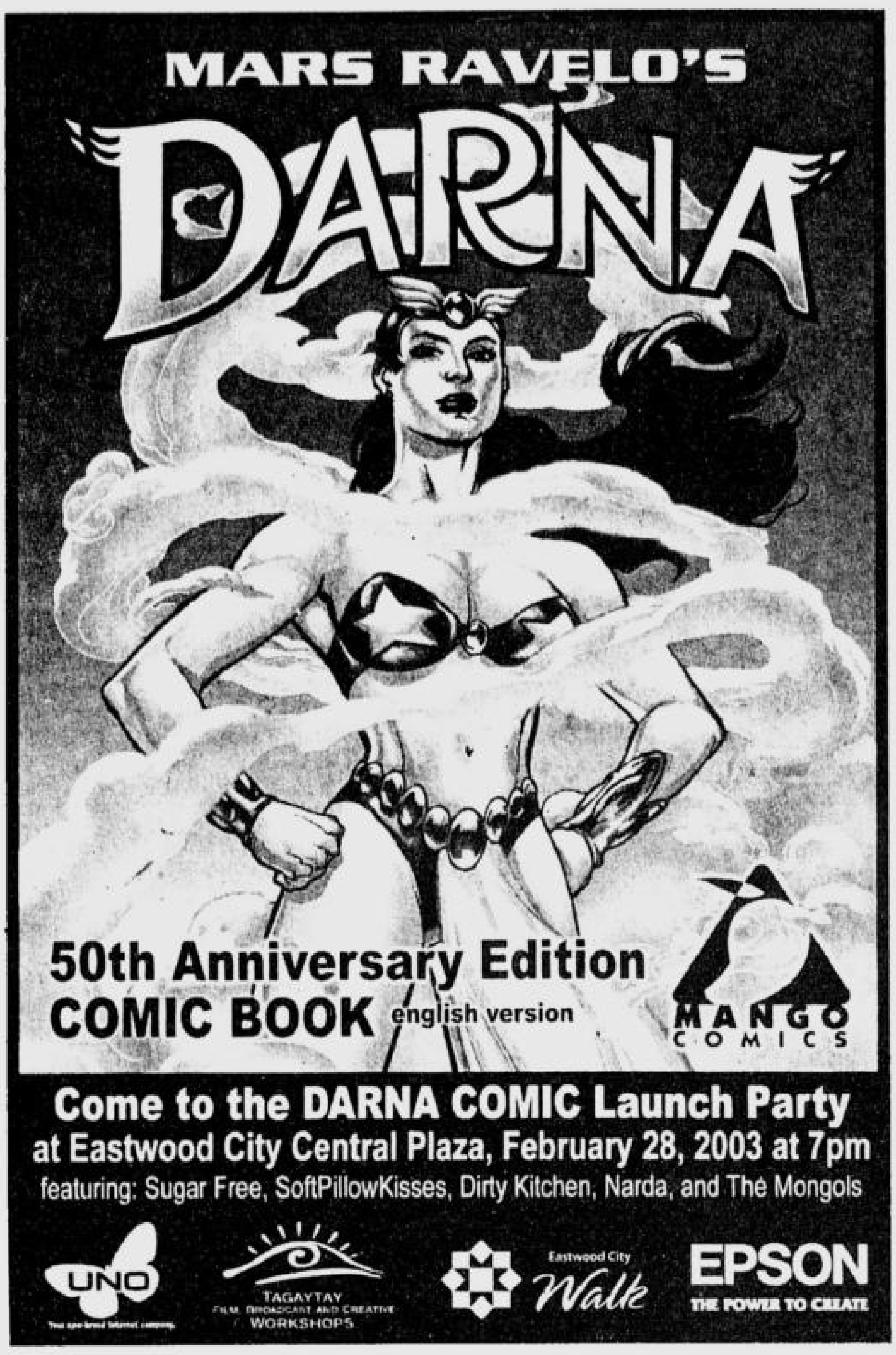
Under the ordinance, the lanes would be closed to traffic from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on all Sundays and public holidays.

City officials also brushed aside fears that the closure of the lanes might cause traffic, saying Sundays and holidays are usually traffic-free since most offices and buildings are closed.

The Ayala Triangle is in the Central Business District and encloses a small park.

Mayor Jejomar Binay said he wants to promote a "culture of fitness" among Makati residents and visitors by making the city a destination for fitness buffs looking for clean, safe and vehicle smoke-free places.

He added that regular fitness events, in coordination with the private sector, would be held at the triangle.



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Time running out for Strunk

By Philip Tubeza

MURDER suspect Rod Lauren Strunk may only have a month to go before American authorities decide to place him under arrest, a National Bureau of Investigation official said yesterday.

Lawyer Ricardo Diaz, NBI-Interpol unit chief, also said that it would also be the "responsibility" of the Americans to make sure that Strunk—principal suspect in the murder of his wife, actress Nida Blanca—does not escape.

Diaz said that the US authorities will first have to review the evidence against Strunk before they decide whether to arrest the fugitive.

Diaz made the statement yesterday after the Pasig Regional Trial Court hearing the Blanca murder case issued an arrest warrant against Strunk on Friday.

Strunk is in California and has refused to come back to the country because he said he does not expect to get justice here.

Diaz said the Department of Justice would request Strunk's extradition and submit documentary evidence—the arrest warrant, court-certified case documents, and the investigators' report—to back up the Philippines' case against Strunk.

US justice officials would then review these documents and decide if there is a case against Strunk before they ask the US extradition court to issue an arrest warrant against the suspect.

"It will be up to them (US authorities)," Diaz said. "We don't have control over that. The review would not take long—usually a month or so."

But while US justice officials review his case, the Federal Bureau of Investigation would continue to monitor Strunk, Diaz said.

"They watch his movements and even give him a call from time to time," he said.

"It is their responsibility to turn him over to us (if the US court allows the extradition) like what we did with Rep. Mark Jimenez," Diaz added.

The US government succeeded in extraditing Jimenez, who left for the United States on Dec. 26 to fight off charges of 47 counts of tax evasion, wire fraud and illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party.

STRUNK

The Manila congressman is now detained in a Florida state penitentiary.

He said the Americans would be held responsible if Strunk flees to another country. But Strunk has said that he would not escape.

Man mauled by mistress and her lesbian lover

By Philip Tubeza

PASAY City building inspector Engineer Rodolfo Medroso, 58, decided to play with fire and took up a mistress. He got burned and badly bruised.

Medroso, of Tramo Road, Pasay City, filed a complaint against his mistress and her lesbian lover after they beat him black and blue when he caught them having sex, said SPO2 Mario Salonga of the Western Police District.

Medroso said his mistress, Laarni Calayacan, 33, of Sampaloc, Manila, and her lover Belen Ocampo, 29, took turns in hitting him, Salonga said.

"He could not open his eyes when he came here," Salonga said. "I also told him that he might get into trouble by admitting that he had a mistress, but he said he was afraid that the two might turn the tables on him."

Having a mistress is immoral under the Civil Service Code.

Salonga said the beating happened at around 1:30 a.m. on Feb. 11 at the house Medroso allegedly provided for his mistress.

"He had become suspicious that his mistress was also having an affair, and so he went there in the middle of the night," Salonga said.

But what shocked him was not the confirmation of his fears but the sight of his mistress carousing with another woman.

"He caught them in a very compromising situation," Salonga said.

In a fit of rage, the engineer threw his cell phone at the couple. But the two women got up and attacked him.

The engineer had to be taken to the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center after the beating.

The victim went to the WPD headquarters to file physical injuries charges against the two women.

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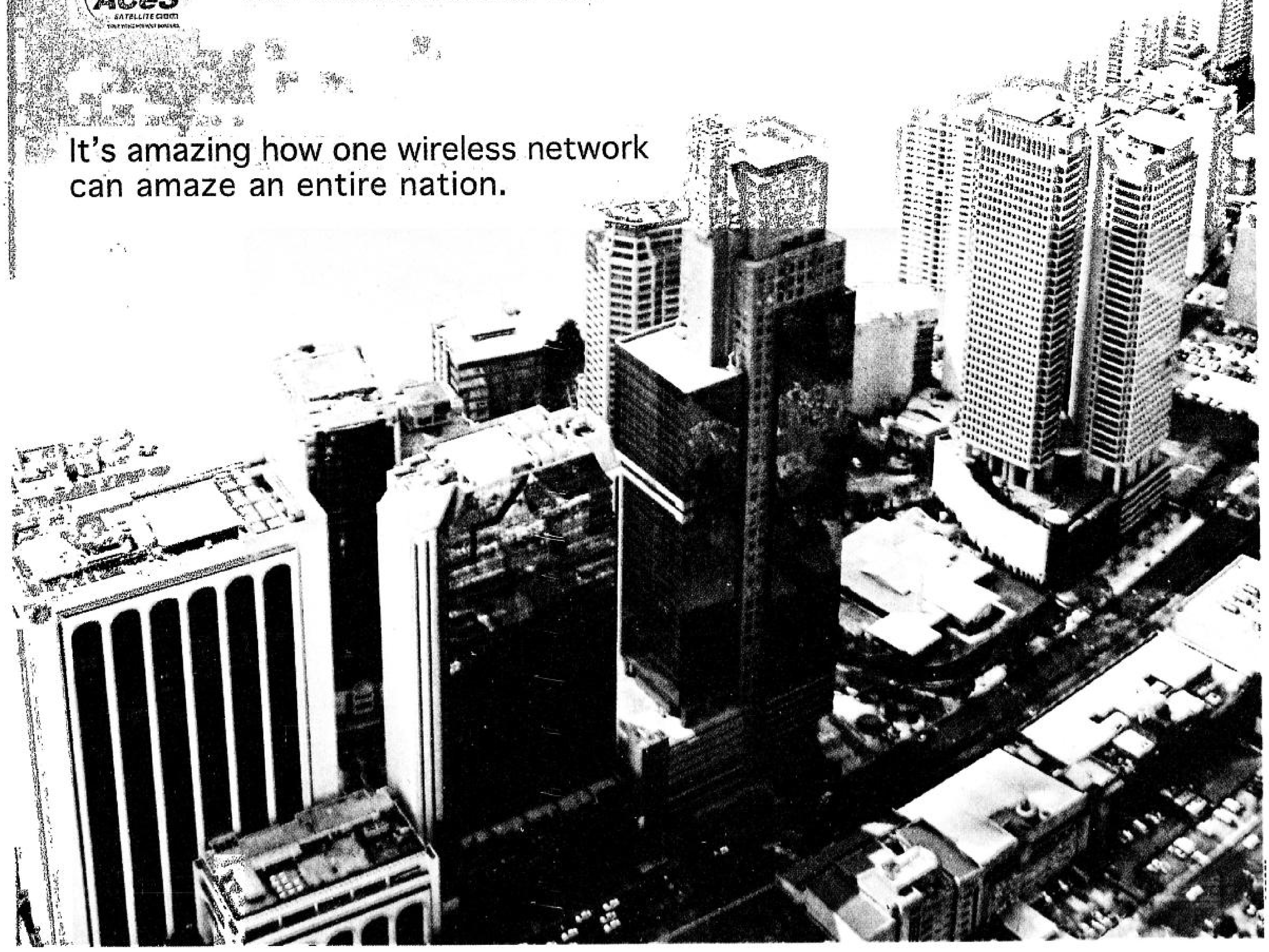

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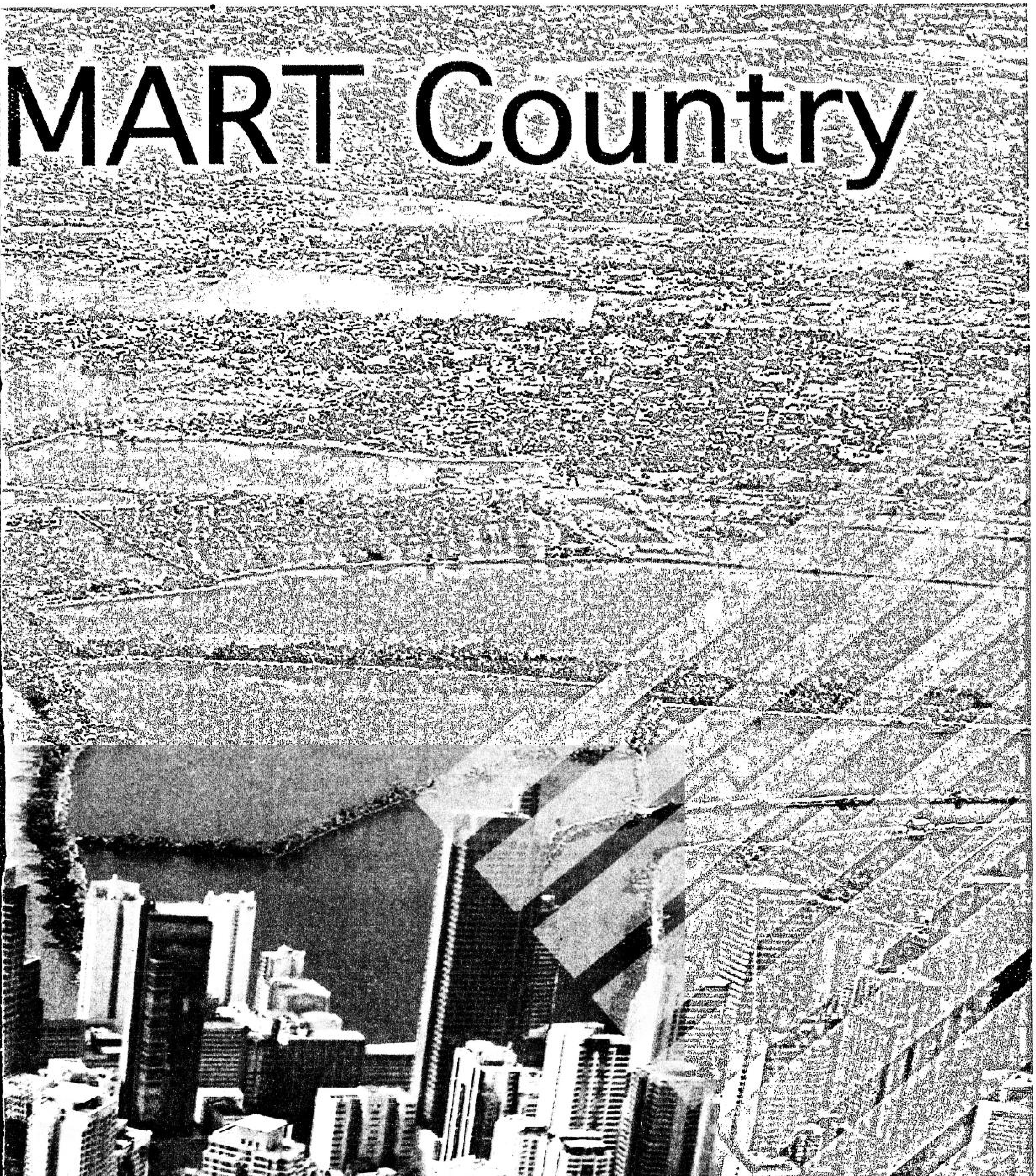

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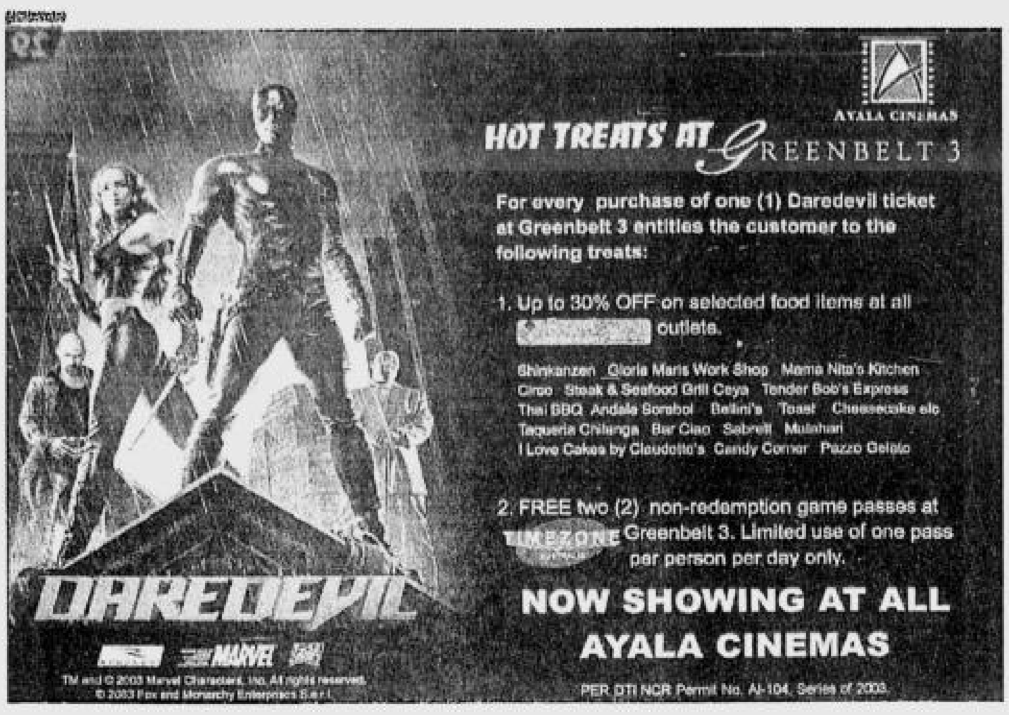

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3 (DTS) DARE DEVIL
4 GOLD (DTS-ES) TWO WEEKS NOTICE
5 GOLD (DOLBY EX) THEY
6 GOLD (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
7 GOLD (DOLBY EX) DAREDEVIL
8 MAGNIFICO
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1
2 TOMAGANS
3 (DTS) TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4
5 BETTER THAN SEX
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA ①②&③
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 TOMAGANS
2 DAREDEVIL
3 BUKANG BIBIG

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 AB NORMAL
3 TOMAGANS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) DAREDEVIL
5 AMAZON

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1 AB NORMAL
2 SUKDULAN
3 DAREDEVIL
4 TOMAGANS
5 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
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1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 AB NORMAL

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(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to 13

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Center Plaza Cinema
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1 HERO
2 I SPY

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1
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 TOMAGANS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 HERO
2 TOMAGANS
3 SHIRLEY
4

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Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
4 TOMAGANS
5 AMAZON
6 AB NORMAL
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3 TOMAGANS
4 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
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9 THEY

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2 (SDDS) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
4 (DOLBY) DAREDEVIL
5 AB NORMAL

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1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 AMAZON
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
4 TOMAGANS
5 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL

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Jennet

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1 TOMAGANS
2 DAREDEVIL
3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
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1 (DOLBY) DAREDEVIL
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 BUKANG BIBIG
4 TOMAGANS
5 AMZON

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1
2

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 TOMAGANS
2 DAREDEVIL

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Araneta Center

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1 AB NORMAL
2 ABANDON
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
5 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
6 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7 ABANDON

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1 TOMAGUNS
2 DAREDEVIL

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1 MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 (DTS) THEY
3 (DOLBY) DAREDEVIL
4 HERO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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1 THEY
2 (DOLBY) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
4 HERO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1 SPECIAL SCREENING
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DOLBY) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
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1 AB NORMAL
2 I SPY
3 (DOLBY) THEY
4 (DTS) FEMME FATALE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY) THEY
2 (DTS) I SPY
3 AB NORMAL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DTS) BUKANG BIBIG
4 TOMAGANS

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DTS) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 FEMME FATALE
5 BETTER THAN SEX

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL
3 SUKDULAN

Olivarez Los Baños
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1 DAREDEVIL
2 TRY SEVENTEEN
3 BALAT SIBUYAS

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 AB NORMAL
2 TRY SEVENTEEN
3 (DTS) DAREDEVIL
4 (DOLBY) LORD OF THE RING

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 BETTER THAN SEX
2 HERO
3 AB NORMAL

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 AB NORMAL
2 I SPY
3 DAREDEVIL
4 TWO WEEKS NOTICE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX) DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL
3 (DTS-ES) SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 FEMME FATALE

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) te (045) 887-0121

1 MAGNIFICO
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 (DOLBY) SHAOLIN SOCCER
4 (DTS) DAREDEVIL

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Filinvest - Alabang

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1 AMAZON
2 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
3 DAREDEVIL
4 THEY
5 DAREDEVIL
6 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7 SUKDULAN
8 MAGNIFICO

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7181416

1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
2 ABANDON
3 DAREDEVIL
4 AMAZON
5 DAREDEVIL
6 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7 DAREDEVIL
8 THEY
9 THE EYE
10 MAGNIFICO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
2 HERO
3 MAGNIFICO
4 DAREDEVIL
5 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7 DAREDEVIL
8 AMAZON
9 DAREDEVIL
10 THEY
11 SUKDULAN
12 LEGEND OF TOMAGAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 DAREDEVIL
2 THE EYE
3 ABANDON
4 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
6 DAREDEVIL
7 AMAZON
8 HERO
9 DAREDEVIL
10 THEY
11 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
12 MAGNIFICO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 DAREDEVIL
2 THEY
3 DAREDEVIL
4 THE EYE
5 ABANDON
6 EL CRIMEN DEL PADRE AMARO
7 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
8 MAGNIFICO
9 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
10 DAREDEVIL
11 AMAZON
12 AB NORMAL COLLEGE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 THEY
2 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3 AMAZON
4 AB NORMAL
5 ABANDON
6 DAREDEVIL
7 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
8 DAREDEVIL

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 ABANDON
2 THEY
3 DAREDEVIL
4 THE EYE
5 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
6 DAREDEVIL
7 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
8 DAREDEVIL
9 MAGNIFICO
10 AMAZON

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 DAREDEVIL
2 BELOW
3 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
4 BETTER THAN SEX
5 MAGNIFICO
6 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
7 I SPY
8 DAREDEVIL

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
2 DAREDEVIL
3 PELIKULAT AT LIPUNAN
4 BELOW
5 I SPY
6 DAREDEVIL
7 CLOSED
8 MAGNIFICO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 DAREDEVIL
2 DAREDEVIL
3 FEMME FATALE
4 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
5 MAGNIFICO
6 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 MAGNIFICO
2 DAREDEVIL
3 DAREDEVIL
4 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 DAREDEVIL
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 LEGEND OF TOMAGAN
4 AB NORMAL COLLEGE

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 DAREDEVIL
2 CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
3 THEY
4 MAGNIFICO
5 I SPY
6 DAREDEVIL

SM BICUTAN
776-3055

1 DAREDEVIL
2 AB NORMAL COLLEGE
3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 DAREDEVIL

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
859-2884

1 DAREDEVIL
2 MAGNIFICO
3 I SPY
4 DAREDEVIL

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8976

1 DAREDEVIL
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END

2 DAREDEVIL
10:30 MF/10:50/1:10/3:30/5:50/8:10/10:00 LFS/10:30 LMF/12:20 END

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THX DAREDEVIL
10:15 MF, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30 LMF
2 DAREDEVIL
3 ABANDON
4 AMAZON
5 DAREDEVIL
6 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
7 EL CRIMEN DEL PADRE AMARO
8 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
9 HERO
10 THEY

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Ermita
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1 DAREDEVIL
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 THE EYE
4 ABANDON
5 DAREDEVIL
6 AMAZON
7 DAREDEVIL

Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1 THEY
2 DAREDEVIL
3 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
4 HERO
5 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
6 DAREDEVIL
7 TOMAGANS
8 AMAZON

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 DAREDEVIL
2 DAREDEVIL
3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 TOMAGANS
5 HERO
6 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
7 THEY
8 AMAZON

Malabon Citisquare
288-0985 / 288-2575

1 TOMAGANS
2 DAREDEVIL
3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 AMAZON

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961- 5318 / 5270

1 DAREDEVIL
2 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
3 FEMME FATALE
4 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
5 MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
6 DAREDEVIL

Imus
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1 DAREDEVIL
2 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
3 AMAZON
4 DAREDEVIL
5 TOMAGANS
6 MAGNIFICO

Sta. Rosa Laguna
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1 DAREDEVIL
2 MAGNIFICO
3 SHAGNHAI KNGIHTS
4 TRY SEVENTEEN
5 THEY

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 DAREDEVIL
2 TRY SEVENTEEN
3 THEY
4 I SPY
5 BETTER THAN SEX
6 AB NORMAL

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 DAREDEVIL
2 I SPY
3 MAGNIFICO
4 BELOW
5 8 MILE
6 DAREDEVIL

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Church wants to ban film in Oscar slate

By Armand Nocum

A CHURCH official wants to ban the highly acclaimed Mexican film "El Crimen de Padre Amaro (The Crime of Fr. Amaro)," about the scandalous dalliance of a priest and a bishop.

The outcry over the film came on the heels of the call of President Macapagal-Arroyo's consultant for religious affairs, for the Church to be transparent on the issue of priests figuring in sexual scandals.

In an interview with Church reporters, Presidential Consultant for Religious Affairs Sonia Ronda also encouraged the Church to hold open discussions on the matter of allowing priests to marry.

In a Valentine's Day letter to Novaliches Bishop Teodoro Bacani, retired Monsignor Nicanor "Nico" Bautista, a member of the Movie Television Review and Classification Board, lashed out at the MTRCB for giving the film an "R" rating.

"It should not be shown here," he said of the foreign film—an Oscar nominee for Best Foreign Film.

The film is about a priest in the province who is carrying on a sexual affair with his housekeeper, another priest in the underground movement, and a bishop whom Monsignor Bautista described as a "compromiser."

One of the priests falls for a "young señorita, makes her pregnant and brings her to an abortionist where she dies."

According to him, the MTRCB gave the "R" rating because the "issue" is "so pervasive in, not just in the Philippines, but around the world."

But Bautista said that the move violates the provisions of Presidential Decree 1986—the law creating the MTRCB—which allows the movie review body to "approve or disapprove" the showing of films that are "objectionable for being immoral, indecent, contrary to law and or good customs."

The movie, he said, is also "injurious" to the "sensibilities of Catholics" and is even "blasphemous."

He said that the movie also violates the "grave scandal" and "decency" provisions of the Revised Penal Code because it presented:

- a woman feeding a Sacred Host to her cat;
- a priest who, while making love to a woman, puts on her the veil of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and tells her, "You are more beautiful than the Virgin Mary;"
- the blasphemous confession of a señorita who says that she has sensual thoughts while taking a shower and "thinking of the Lord."

But Ronda said such issues should prompt the Church to take a "serious look" into the sex scandals cases involving priests, particularly the case of former Antipolo Bishop Crisostomo Yalung.

On Dec. 7, the Vatican announced Yalung's resignation after he reportedly fathered a child last year.

Yalung left for the United States to shield the Church from further shame and scandal involving his romantic ties with a confessant, according to a high-ranking Church official.

"We should study (those cases) in the light of the fact that even the Holy Apostles have families," Ronda said.

"Let us talk about it rather than (sweep) it under the rug," she said, referring to accusations that the Church is allegedly covering up the sexual scandal of Yalung and other priests.

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Aside from getting married in church, how else can a couple get married?

Guest: In wedding, aside from a priest, you can be solemnized by the mayor, or you can be solemnized by the captain!

(Ah, so...)

***

Host: Now that the president has announced that she will no longer run for reelection in 2004, what happens to the criticisms about too much politics in her administration?

Guest: Well, obviously, the issue is already mute!

(*Ay*, mute!)

***

Host: How do you feel, now that your girlfriend is in the States!

Guest: I have sweated an ocean since she left!

(How—poetic!)

***

Host: Where do you plan to retire, here in the Philippines, or in the United States?

Guest: Of course, here, where my family is.

Host: Do you have a timetable? Next year, two years from now?

Guest: No definite plan yet—but hopefully, Sunday.

(That sounds very definite to us!)

***

Host: How similar are you and your son? I hear he's also a "chick boy"?

Guest: No, that's not true at all. I play the field, but he's a one-man woman!

(Oops, his slip is showing!)

***

Host: What are your planned reforms for the banking system this year, to benefit the people?

Guest: Well, one of them is, *kailangang gawing mas madali para sa mga bangko na manghiram ng pondo sa mga* customer.

(*Baligtad yata!*)

***

Host: So, you're the new singer of (name of band)?

Guest: Yes, I started singing with them only last month.

Host: I'm curious—how did they get you to join this very unpopular group?

(*Ang sakit mo naman magsalita!*)

***

Host: How long have you been in politics?

Guest: Twenty years—*pero* I'm proud to say, never *ako na-inbold sa* anomaly!

(*Ay, inbold!*)

***

Newscaster: Update *sa* controversial case: finally today, nag-hand-down *na ng desisyon si* Judge (name), *alyas Kalamansi*.

(That's a news item?!)

***

Host: I heard, when you were young, *nakulong ka—totoo ba ito?*

Guest: Well, it's but normal. *Lahat naman nangyayari sa buhay natin.*

(Speak for yourself!)

Cheap promotional gambits

HOW cheap can the local sex flick scene get? Very. Not only are young girls exploited or exploit themselves for quickie stardom's sake, but cynicism and hypocrisy have permeated even the way that bold movies are promoted these days.

It looks like the latest wrinkle is to invent "shocking" stories about the stars of new sex flicks, so that, when they guest on TV to promote their new movies, they have something "hot" to talk about, and deny.

In the past weeks, we've had to put up with tall tales about:

—A female star who went abroad and, for a lot of money, she agreed to have sex with—a priest. Not true at all!, the star piously protested.

—A male stud was shown naked in photos on the Internet. But he said the photographs were fake, because his face was superimposed on another man's body. How did he know that the nude body wasn't his? He was much better "endowed" than his stunt double, he vigorously maintained.

—Another male stud was shown having sex in a video taken on the sly. But he denied being the man in the sex video, and wondered why people were spreading such baseless rumors about him.

Well, these three sexy performers and others like them needn't wonder any longer, because the jig is up: these are merely wild promotional tales designed to give them something racy to talk about on TV, to generate salacious public interest in the new films they're flogging.

If you went to see their movies because these promo stories turned you on—you've been had! Just don't be so gullible next time, OK?

Interesting segments in 'Beauty Plus'

VIEWERS will find more exciting and interesting segments on today's episode of "Beauty Plus," 11 a.m. to 12 noon on RPN 9, hosted by Ricky Reyes and directed by Cris Aquino.

To be introduced is "Cafe Lupe's Food Adventure," featuring charming chef Maritess Gutierrez, daughter of "Ricky Reyes Ganda ng Lola Mo" endorser Gloria Romero.

Maritess, known for her exotic and palatable concoctions, will give a tour of Café Lupe in Guadalupe, Makati.

Joining the new segment and sampling Maritess' culinary expertise is Bb. Pilipinas International 2001 Maricar Tolosa, image model of Café Lupe.

Beauty queen Jane Cavas, Miss Manila 2002 first runnerup, graces "Make Over Magic" of Mother Ricky.

Consumers give testimonials on Abs Bitterherbs in "Get Active Stay Healthy."

In "Straight from the Expert," Decoration 911 will give tips on how to redecorate the family room.

The launch of the Kolour Masters Awards 2003, jointly sponsored by Kolours and Scriptovision, held at the ballroom of Rembrandt Hotel last Feb. 18, will be shown.

Other forthcoming segments to premier next week in "Beauty Plus" are "Beauty and Skin Talk-Body Recipe" and "Crush ng Bayan."

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Feb 22, 7pm and March 2, 7pm
Fireworks display at the Athletic bowl
Feb. 22, 8pm
MOR 103.1 Baguio concert at Camp John Hay Football Field featuring Access, Mojo Fly and Piolo Pascual.
Feb 23, 9am
The Parade of Floats & Drum Bugle Competition at Baguio city's main thoroughfares ending at the Melvin Jones football Field
Feb 27 to Mar 1, 8am-12nn
Session Road in Bloom
Feb 28 to Mar 1
Pony Boys Day at the Athletic Bowl
Mar 1, 8am-12nn
The Baguio Flower Festival National Half Marathon at the city's thoroughfares
Mar 2
Awarding of Landscaping contest winners
Mar 2, 1 pm
Closing Ceremony at the Athletic Bowl

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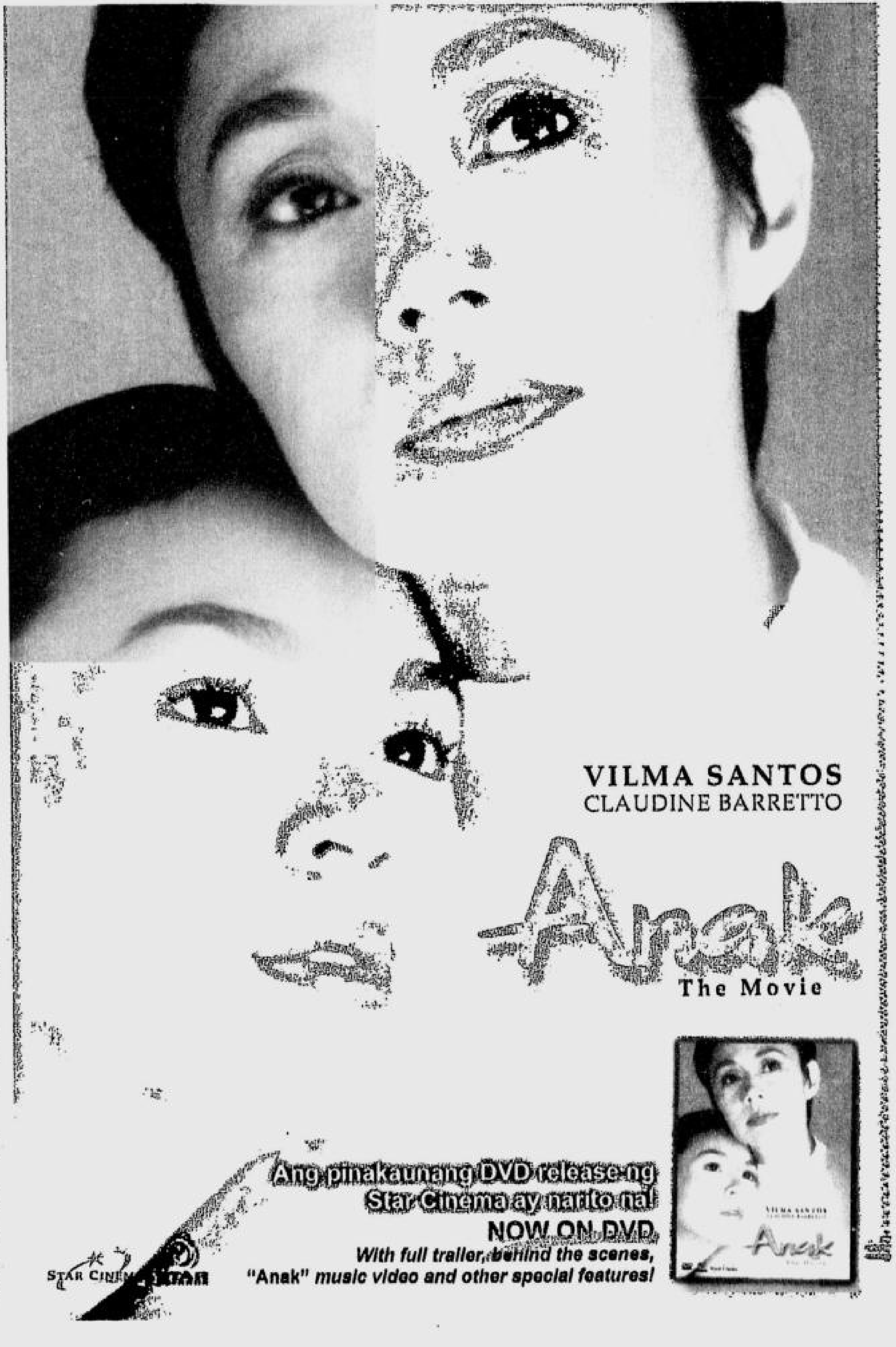
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

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Sunday BIZ
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Treasury whiz whips up more than just gov't funds

By Clarissa S. Batino

COOKING is a word usually associated with Sergio "Boy" Edeza's mean feats in the money market in the last two decades when he whipped up savvy financial recipes not commonly heard of in an emerging economy like the Philippines.

Lately though, more and more are sampling the culinary delights of Edeza and his cooking has come to mean a real feast.

When he led the Treasury Department of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, he openly declared how much the BSP sold or bought daily especially during times of a volatile peso. This unconventional wisdom he brought to the treasury operations of the country's largest, Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.

At the Bureau of Treasury, he concocted deals that earned raves from offshore investors while keeping the local market on an even keel with his well-calibrated debt strategies.

"It is a challenge to cook and when you see people enjoying your food, the fulfillment that it gives is really wonderful," says the 45-year-old gourmand.

Real cooking

Until recently, very few were familiar with the real cooking that takes place in Boy's kitchen where he plays around with ingredients he brought home from his many trips overseas.

Unknown to many, the treasurer of the Republic of the Philippines would fill his suitcase not only with exotic trinkets and branded clothes after an exhausting road show but mostly with herbs and spices he needs for a new pasta recipe.

In many instances, a bottle of olive oil and dried tomatoes from Lucca, Italy, would share space with an Armani polo on sale.

The desire to cook is so great for Boy that he is seriously planning to put up his own restaurant again. His first crack in the food business happened in the early '90s when he put up an Italian restaurant named Gio's near Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay.

"I had to close it when I became treasurer of the BSP and I could no longer attend to the restaurant. Sales suffered when I wasn't around as often," he recalls.

Boy says he would venture into another Italian restaurant and is in fact, starting to talk to potential partners, after his stint with the government that he had been itching to end in the last one-and-a-half-years when he announced at least four resignations that were not accepted.

Bids for Italian

"I really love cooking. I was still in BSP when I started venturing into the kitchen more and more and ended up producing my own recipes, mostly pasta dishes," he says.

He admits a bias for Italian food, which he claims is easier to cook and provides a big room for creativity. Boy subscribes to the school of thought that it was the Italians who perfected the concept of a cuisine and not the French.

Last Christmas, Boy says his family raved on a new experiment he calls the Squid Ink Pasta, a dish he will bring to a lunch this week with bankers and his contingent of expert borrowers from the finance department to toast the recently-concluded 300-million euro bond deal for the Republic.

Boy's borrowing trips overseas give him the chance to buy ingredients that are either rare in the local market or too expensive.

His two bestsellers of late are the Chicken Basil and the Four Cheese Tortellini, both of which are cooked with Boy's great finds in Europe and in the United States.

His chicken, for instance, is cooked with olive oil and dried tomatoes from Italy, pine nuts he bought from the US where it was a lot cheaper, and dead-sea salt from Jordan that he bought from France.

Even as more people become acquainted with Chef Edeza, including reporters who gatecrashed his birthday party last year to feast on his pasta, Boy's mother remains his biggest fan.

Boy recalls that his mom would always try to help in the kitchen, much to his frustration at times. One time, because of her desire to help, Mommy Meny accidentally

TREASURY/ B2

EDEZA brings home herbs and spices abroad

EDEZA wants to eventually put up his own restaurant.

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Two young chief execs think aloud

Filipino youth in the workplace

CONCEPCION

WE HAVE just cut 1,500 jobs at RFM Corp., the place where I work. Not that we want to lay off some workers just to cut cost, but right-sizing has been our continuing policy to enable us to compete. And by right-sizing, we mean to focus on things with greater potential and which we can do at the least cost, a strategy no competitive firm will leave undone. It is also a means to preserve remaining jobs.

Of course, RFM will not be the only one to benefit from right-sizing. Even its former workers, those who have been with us but choose to avail themselves of separation benefits, can expect to ride on this strategy. Since the group intends to farm out jobs such as selling and producing RFM products, they may as well extend their services to the group or supply some of the things it needs. They too can become their own boss, as entrepreneurs.

Contrary to popular notion, right-sizing is not as grim and gloomy as others paint to be. In fact, it has a multiplier effect in the economy. It helps create opportunities for entrepreneurs, a breed of people who can operate a business and assume the risk of carrying it through. The opportunities in turn open the door for additional employment, and so on. It really helps promote entrepreneurship in the country.

Big break

I believe entrepreneurship is one big break for our youth. Rather than focus on how to get employed overseas, they may try to carve a name in the competitive world of entrepreneurial capitalism.

Entrepreneurship, however, is one area of skills training that is relatively unexplored by the majority of our youth. In my previous talks with students, they appeared to me to have set their sight on overseas employment or out-migration as a means of getting out of the hump.

Although I consider overseas employment as a stopgap measure for an economy grappling with a stubbornly high unemployment rate, I still view it as one big step toward entrepreneurship. Some overseas Filipino workers are known to have saved enough to fund and operate their own business. One current toast of our labor authorities is the Automotive Workers' Cooperative in Pasig City. It was put up by overseas Filipino workers based in Doha, Qatar, who dreamt of turning their investment in terms of hard work into entrepreneurial profits. Now this auto shop is churning out handsome profits from servicing European cars in the metropolis.

There are still thousand others who struck it rich abroad but still want to hit it big here. They include Beatrice Lewis, majority owner of US-based Beatrice Foods who at one point tried to buy the Philippine National Bank, and perhaps engineer-scientist-entrepreneur Diosdado Banatao who produced the single-chip graphics accelerator for the personal computer. But even without directly taking a piece of the action in the Philippines, Filipino expatriates are still a major source of funds flowing into the country's banking system, which can be channeled to some viable entrepreneurial endeavors.

Business climate

Not all who dream of making it in the highly competitive world of business can become successful entrepreneurs. As our youth will learn from those who ventured but failed, entrepreneurship involves skills. I am not referring to the professional skills the majority of our young entrepreneurs presently possess, but to that rare ability to quickly make good judgments and decisions when confronted with such issues as when and how to carry out new concepts they feel are acceptable to the market. Of course, entrepreneurship always requires the willingness, and the gumption, to risk capital.

I started working as an entrepreneur during the 1970s, when I was still in school. The economy was still sound and robust and the environment was conducive to doing business. The country had then a regime of low interest rates, when banks were only too willing to lend money to entrepreneurs. Almost everyone was thinking of putting up a *sari-sari* store or dealing in trading—not a revolutionary idea, but a good entrepreneurial start.

Business then was not as difficult as it is now. At that time, and even in the era before that, we saw how some people rose from poverty to become self-made millionaires. Theirs were definitely rags-to-riches stories, which we seldom hear about today. I attribute their success to a favorable business climate.

Unfortunately, the business climate has since terribly changed. Young people can no longer look forward with any certainty to a career or even a job. Money is tight and no new investors are coming in. The banking sector is very choosy about whom to lend money to. The whole situation thus creates tremendous daily pressure on business. Yet, it makes entrepreneurship more challenging.

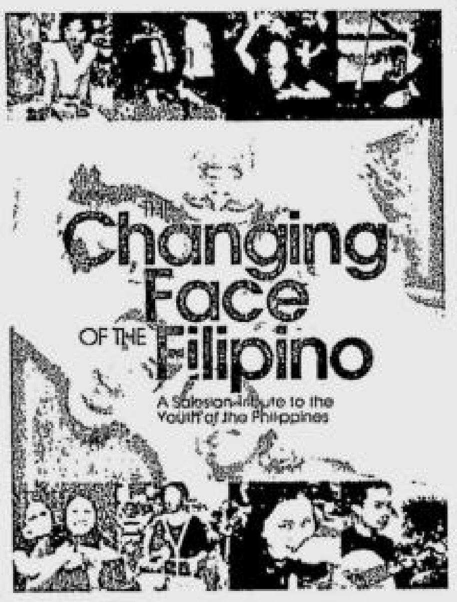
The economy taking a fall is the bane of entrepreneurs' business life. Take the slumping technology sector as an example. Being up-to-date about the developments in information technology is good, but it does not insulate the computer shop owner or even an Internet service provider from the impact of, say, an economic slowdown in the United States. Returns on investment, however modest or huge, are not constant in the world of business.

Knowledge, skills

This is why I am giving high value to skills and knowledge. When and how to introduce new concepts in the market, for example, is not just a matter of quick thinking and value judgment. It requires the ability to read through sets of economic data, to quickly respond to the customers' changing needs, to anticipate what business rivals will do next, and so on. Such abilities cannot be developed and honed through mere exposure on the street, but mainly through formal training.

I emphasize formal training because it helps the entrepreneur a lot, as proven by those who have assumed great risks of doing business. So if there is one who had reached only second grade in school but was able to strike it rich through diligence, perseverance and honesty, he or she is a rare species. The general rule is that he or she who possesses both managerial skills and keen business acumen is likely to succeed as an entrepreneur.

So here lies the irony of an educational system in a democracy. If it is through formal training that an entrepreneur can develop business acumen and acquire those managerial skills, then the Filipino youth who come from poor families are at a great disadvantage. Poor kids barely finish high school, while the rich ones lead a comfortable life throughout their school years. This inequality gives our economy little more than an unlimited supply of workers doing menial jobs.



THE Changing Face OF THE Filipino
A Salesian Tribute to the Youth of the Philippines

This is unpleasant, if not disturbing. The poor ones comprising the majority of Filipino youth are not getting the right education today. Yet they are destined to dictate the future life of this country, if indeed its future lies in the hands of our youth.

Even in business, the future role of the youth is one big question mark. Mainly because they are poor and lack the proper education, majority of our youth are not prepared to become entrepreneurs. Most of them did not go through the kind of value formation under the tutelage of their parents who, I assume, were too preoccupied with earning a living.

That explains why majority of our youth are not keen on becoming entrepreneurs and why they simply set their sight on finding work abroad. They recognize the fact that they lack the necessary preparation, if not the wherewithal, to assume the risk of a business.

It really boils down to the question of preparing the youth through the school system and preparing them to succeed. But for as long as quality education remains expensive and inaccessible to the majority, the youth who come from better schools will continue to enjoy a better chance of making it in the challenging business environment of tomorrow.

(This article is based on an interview by Ed Perpeña as published in the "The Changing Face of the Filipino, A Salesian Tribute to the Youth of the Philippines." It is available at the Salesiana office in Don Bosco Makati.)

Changing career patterns, business horizon of the future

By Luis P. Lorenzo Jr.

LORENZO

ENERGETIC, idealistic, passionate.

This is how I would describe the typical young men and women who are joining the corporate world with their college diplomas in tow. I admire these idealistic young people. They can motivate you as a superior because their energy rubs off. The exciting part about them is that they are able to get the rest of your organization energized.

As their minds are relatively fresh, and considering the fact that they are very flexible, you are able to influence them to imbibe, not only the vision and mission of your enterprise but also the value system that you and your group really represent and would like to get across.

However, there are several challenges that management must face in opening up careers for young recruits. There is such a wide spectrum of the youth today, much more than before. I think that a combination of factors—earlier influences from families and peers, access to information and data, and the very complex and fast-paced world we all live in—has made matters quite complicated.

For one—and I say this in a constructively critical way—the attention span of young Filipinos tends to be short. Unless the young man or woman knows what he or she wants and has acquired a level of internal and psychological maturity, he or she will keep on moving from one organization to another.

How does a manager deal with this? One way is to take it as a given and say that this person might be trained to become a multi-task employee. He or she must be taught to nurture the capacity to finish projects and must be led to develop the ability to take risks. What is happening today is that many people want the easy way out. They are not willing to work hard. In fact, they derive more pleasure in the outcome of their work if they do not go through challenges in achieving their end goal.

Vital parts

Personally, I discern the need for the youth to take in three character traits that would work to their advantage once they move on to the workplace.

On the economic side, they have to develop the ability to go beyond talk. They should be able to plan, execute and complete their assigned projects on time. You give them the broad strokes and they start to move and implement. There's a call to action along these key points. The youth should be trained to think outside of the box, especially in finding solutions to common issues and concerns. It's more like getting them not to be spoon-fed.

The second point is that they have to develop social responsibility. I keep repeating this whenever I talk to people from the academe because, unlike developed countries, we've got a bigger task at hand in meeting the expectations of people. We have a very large poor population and a set of systems that have to be revamped. We've got to have reforms with social responsibility solutions, not just reforms with economic solutions.

I suppose the young people that I would be hiring and the young people I would interface with most of the time, would hopefully be the next leaders of the enterprise. These leaders can then influence other people in introducing socially responsible reforms. While doing business, they can go the extra mile to help those who have less in life.

The third point stems from one's sense of conscience: we need to involve the youth in pushing a moral recovery agenda for our country. Given that our institutions are a bit misguided at this point, we really have to tap the basic reservoir of goodness in everyone. Probably the greatest strength of our country, from a human perspective, is the sense of family. We are all ready to die for our families and, in our culture, there seems no greater disgrace than failing our families. We all know the negative side of this family-orientedness when taken to excess. But clearly, with a strong moral foundation in place, a critical mass of families can move our nation forward not just in material terms but also with a set of values and principles consistent with our culture.

Unfortunately, because of the speed at which technological change, modern business and globalization are taking place, many heads of enterprise miss out on these key points. For them, it's like riding on the back of a tiger and the only time they get off is when they retire. As a leader you have to be able to temper your style with the practical realities and needs of the human workforce under your wing. That is a balancing act. Even as you work fast, you try to imbue among your people the spirit of delivering timely business solutions infused with the ideas of social responsibility and moral recovery.

Job seeker or entrepreneur?

The typical Filipino mindset is that you go through school with the intent of landing a job. However, there are very few jobs out there for the youth. And it's a function, maybe, of our economy or our mode of educational training that today's young graduates—despite being more information-technology-literate than their parents' generation—are less marketable to what is available out there.

Many of the youth today—and this depends on the school where they come from—expect better-paying jobs and more responsibilities up front rather than going through the ranks. I think that there is no greater sense of self-worth and achievement than getting to a managerial or supervisory post by going through the ranks.

On the other hand, perhaps we should start training the youth to be less of the job-oriented applicant and more of an entrepreneurial thinker-executor. Early on in their university life, the youth should be trained to be survivors who not only know how to work with their minds but also with their hands. The young student should be made to recognize that there is dignity in work and he or she should start early to see perhaps what might be of great interest to him or her.

Involving youth

So perhaps they should get practicum right after their first year college or during their first summer in college. It's really getting into the action early and looking at the practical realities outside, rather than being very choosy or philosophical.

This is not to say that I'm giving up on the older generation but the youth today will have to be the future reformers and the change agents of the enterprise and of the country as a whole. Leaders in their generation should emerge to get things moving.

Who should be responsible for getting the youth on track? I think it should really be the school and the parents, but never the school alone. It could be that the value system taught at home may be different from what the school teaches, and vice-versa, and certainly a situation like this becomes very confusing to the youth. But then again, in school, you cannot really control your kids. There is peer pressure for the wrong things. It is hard not to be drawn into the wrong thing, if one is a weak person. Herein lies the role of parents. By talking things out with their children, they knowingly give them strength to better deal with contradictions outside the home.

Can anything be done to temper the natural restlessness of the youth? Perhaps, the parents can start by drilling down the value of perseverance and hard work. In the workplace, on the other hand, the culture should take on a genuine concern for developing every individual's strengths. Reinforcing mechanisms should also be put in place to make young people feel a little bit more secure on the job such that they can focus on achieving their goals, not only with respect to their careers but also as human beings.

(This article is based on an interview by Bob Navarro as published in the "The Changing Face of the Filipino, A Salesian Tribute to the Youth of the Philippines." It is available at the Salesiana office in Don Bosco Makati.)

Treasury whiz whips up more than just gov't funds

From page B1

COOKING will be Edeza's source of revenue when he leaves government.

burned Boy's back with a steaming casserole of lasagna.

"We are a family of good cooks. My mom's expertise is Spanish dishes. She loves my cooking and even those that I experiment with she says turns out well," he notes proudly.

He is partial to pasta because while he and two brothers were growing up, spaghetti was a common meal at home.

A control freak, Boy says he wants his spaghetti to taste and be cooked the same way once he found out how exactly how his palate preferred it. So by the time he was 20, he started taking over the kitchen at home.

"I decided that if I want the taste to be consistent, I have to cook it myself. Then I migrated to lasagna which is what I cook most of the time," he says.

The treasurer notes that when he cooks, he does not taste the food but simply smells it claiming that with a sniff, he knows if it is already perfect or if it still lacked some flavor.

Boy's accurate sense of smell he also uses in his regular dealings with the market, especially during uncertain periods when interest rates are under attack.

Much as he loved the challenge of taming what he sometimes refers to as an unruly market, he admits to really want to leave government as soon as his bosses let him go.

Even his mother who may have grown tired of helping out Boy in his finances had been tugging at his sleeve, convincing him to find another employment.

"I seriously want a restaurant to be my source of revenue after I leave the government," he notes.

Boy believes his next calling will be the food business where the only cooking he would do will be in the kitchen of his Italian restaurant and no longer during clandestine meetings with market players for a new loan.

Professionalizing ice cream street-selling

ELY Elpato is a single, 20 year-old from San Francisco del Monte in Quezon City with a job that he enjoys—selling products that delight people of all ages, and chatting with regular customers. Everyday, he puts on a neat blue uniform, and properly groomed, is on the job from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. An elementary school graduate, his take-home pay is usually better than minimum wage—and some days hits a thousand pesos or even more.

Before he got his job about a year ago, he was unemployed, a *tambay*. One day while hanging out and feeling warm, he heard the familiar catchy tune of a Nestlé Ice Cream carrito. Treating himself to a frozen novelty, he got to asking the carrito vendor how he had landed the job. Shortly after, ave he became Nestlé Ice Cream carrito vendor himself.

Ely is one of over a thousand such vendors nationwide. He is part of a program that Nestlé Philippines initiated in 2001 to professionalize ice cream street selling and maximize the use of the carritos by bringing innovations to the concept of the cart the Mamang Sorbetero pushes to sell "dirty" ice cream.

The program was spearheaded by Joey Dominguez, AVP and Regional Sales Manager for National Accounts of the Nestlé Ice Cream Division, and Stephanie Lim, then Key Accounts Specialist and now Assistant Brand Manager, under Joey Mendoza, National Sales Manager for Nestlé Ice Cream.

According to Dominguez, professionalized street selling brings ice cream to consumers wherever, whenever, and however. Buying and consuming ice cream is driven by impulse and the urge to indulge, therefore street vending makes a compelling sales channel.

Significant share of sales

From a mere one percent share before the program started, says Dominguez, the carritos now account for a significant share of the frozen novelties business. He added that sales per carrito have grown higher than sales per store freezer, while the cost is lower. Street selling volumes have exceeded those of supermarkets and convenience stores combined for frozen novelties. Street selling is now a major component of the company's total sales effort.

Beyond sales, however, says Mendoza, a major positive result of the carrito program is the creation of decent, full-time jobs for the vendors, who, like Elpato, are undergraduates and have limited employment options.

There are no educational or age qualifications for Nestlé Ice Cream carrito vendors, except that they be hard-working, honest, courteous to customers, and physically capable of driving their carritos. They are directly employed by concessionaires like Ric Beldua, President of Beyond Marketing Corporation (BMC), who operates in Quezon City. Beldua, a former advertising executive, says that since the vendors' income depends on sales generated, how much they earn is largely determined by their diligence and effort. The vendors are given a margin over suggested retail price and various sales incentives.

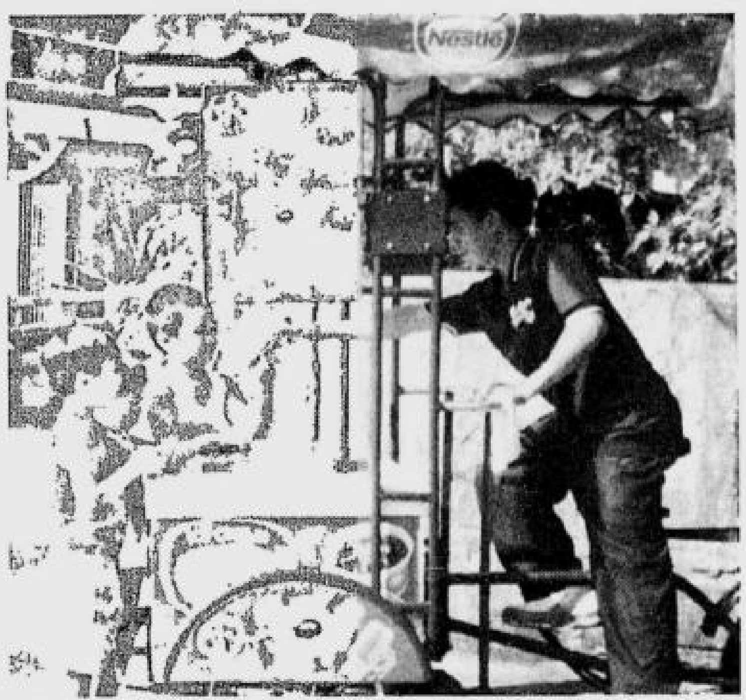
"It boils down to *sipag at tiyaga*," explains Beldua, a pioneer with Nestlé in establishing the street-selling program. Crediting Nestlé for its thorough support for concessionaires and vendors, and its attitude of partnership, he says his 200 vendors could easily double in the foreseeable future, given the healthy growth prospects for ice cream novelties. "Actually, partnership with Nestlé goes beyond that. It's more of a lasting relationship," he says.

Special equipment

How has Nestlé professionalized ice cream street selling in the country?

Equipment-wise, says Dominguez, the pedal-powered carritos are designed to take the punishment of local streets. With their distinctive blue color and Nestlé Ice Cream jingle playing on a loudspeaker, the carritos readily attract consumers, especially children. The carritos use blast freezers and eutectic plates to keep the novelties frozen properly, while reducing dependence on the more costly dry ice. The carritos undergo regular maintenance so they are kept presentable and functioning properly.

Even as the vendors are employed by concessionaires, Dominguez reveals that Nestlé Philippines trains them. They undergo seminars—a first in the history of local ice cream street selling—to learn proper product handling, loading and unloading of stocks, responding to customer complaints, and the appeal of ice cream to consumers. The vendors visit the Nestlé Ice Cream Factory in Quezon City to observe how the products they sell are manufactured. The training gives them a sense of the importance of the business, and motivates them to take street-selling seriously.


PEDAL-POWERED carritos are designed to take the punishment of local streets

THE MAMANG Sorbetero concept is upgraded in Nestlé's program

What can P9,999 buy you? Three days in Palawan

ONCE a year, busy working people allow themselves a legitimate excuse to momentarily escape the corporate world of meetings, paper works, reports, planning sessions, presentations and various other job responsibilities. This affords them the opportunity to relax; unwind and, most importantly, spend quality time with the family.

The summer months, which have come early this year, is deemed to be the best time to take that well-deserved break. Acting on the prospect presented by an early abundance of sunshine is The Legend Hotel, which has put together a vacation package.

The Palawan Nature Experience or P-A-X is an all-in tour package to the country's last nature frontier.

Individuals who want everything planned and budgeted accordingly will appreciate that PAX's P9,999 net/person package already includes a 3 days-2 nights accommodation at The Legend Hotel Palawan, roundtrip airfare via Air Philippines, airport transfers, breakfasts, lunches, dinners, a city tour, and a nature experience of one's choice. It covers the essential items guests are expected to spend for a while on vacation.

By rounding off the necessary expenses, PAX gives guests a better estimate of how much or little pocket money they have to bring for buying 'pasalubongs' or taking snacks in between meals, which are basically the only other things they would have to budget for.

There are tour hosts assigned to guide groups to their choice of destination.

Little conveniences such as extra towels for swimming and plastics for wet clothes, not to mention the interesting Palawan trivia shared during long drives, are value added services.

Another PAX advantage is its varied choices of destination to suit individual preferences. For a nature experience in Palawan, guests can select from the following tours: Underground River Adventure, Honday Bay Island Hopping, Narra Excursion, or a visit to Nagtabon Beach.

The Underground River Adventure takes you to the recesses of an 8 km cavern situated deep within the limestone and marble peaks of Mt. St. Paul.

Aboard a fiberglass paddle boat, you will enter the pitch dark interiors of the cave and traverse the still waters of the river to view the amazing stalactites and stalagmites formations hidden within.

Those thrilled by the prospect of island hopping will enjoy the Honda Bay Islands tour. It includes a visit to the Snake Island and the Pandan Island, and viewing of the Bat, Luli, Starfish and Cowrie Islands. Snake Island is perfect for snorkeling and fish feeding. As its name implies, the island has a long stretch of fine white sand shaped like a serpent. Pandan Island also has a white sandy beach that beckons. A motorized boat will shuttle you from one island to the other.

A new destination being introduced by PAX is the Narra Town. The day's excursion consists of visits to several nice spots within town. These include the Rasa Island, home to the endangered Philippine cackatoo, 87 other bird species and animals endemic to Palawan. Its large coral reefs are ideal for snorkeling and diving around the island. From here, your motorized boat will take you to Arena Island where Pawikan can be viewed. Final destination by water is the Crystal Paradise Resort

WHAT/B8

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

AS PUBLISHED EARLIER, THE JOINT VENTURE CONTRACT DATED NOVEMBER 14, 1995 OF **MARCBILT REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MANUEL TAN)** WITH RHODORA MOJICA THE OWNER OF THE 50,000 SQM. ST., JULIANNE HOMES, MUNTING MAPINO, NAIC, CAVITE WAS FORMALLY CANCELLED BY SAID OWNER UNDER HER VERIFIED NOTICE TO RESCIND DATED JULY 14, 2001 BECAUSE OF THE FAILURE OF **MARCBILT REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORP.** TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS THEREOF AND THE ONGOING DEVELOPMENT ON THE LOT BY LGTM CORPORATION IS BY VIRTUE OF A NEW JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT IT ENTERED WITH SAID OWNER, RHODORA MOJICA.

THE FORCIBLE ENTRY CASE FILED BY **MARCBILT REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MANUEL TAN)** AGAINST LGTM AND RHODORA MOJICA (OWNER OF THE 50,000 SQUARE METER PROPERTY) WAS DISMISSED BY THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT OF NAIC, CAVITE. LIKEWISE, CRIMINAL CASE IS NO. 02-146 FILED BY MARCBILT WAS DISMISSED BY THE PROVINCIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE OF IMUS, CAVITE.

LGTM IS ALSO REQUIRING MARCBILT REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO SURRENDER IN COURT THE OWNER'S DUPLICATE COPIES OF THE LOT'S TITLE FOR SAFEKEEPING AS A RESULT OF THE DISMISSAL OF THE CASES AND RESCISSION OF JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN MARCBILT AND MOJICA

SALVADOR, BASCONCILLO & ASSOCIATES
COUNSEL FOR LGTM
8/F ANTEL GLOBAL CORPORATE CENTER,
PASIG CITY, M.M.

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TESTING SCHEDULE

Domestic Testing Dates
(AIM, Makati City)
Schoolyear 2003-2004

MARCH 8, 2003 (Nationwide)
MARCH 22, 2003
APRIL 12, 2002
APRIL 26, 2003

TEST CENTERS

BACOLOD
Ms. Ma. Socorro A. Flaminialagao
Testing Officer, Guidance Center
University of St. La Salle
Tel. No.: (34) 23262
E-mail: admit@usls.edu.ph

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Guidance director
Baguio Colleges Foundation
Tel. No.: (74) 4422564

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY
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Testing Officer
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan
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Divine Word College
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739773 / 739934
E-mail: pam@siti.admu.edu.ph

ZAMBOANGA CITY
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Assistant to the President
Ateneo de Zamboanga
Tel. No.: (062) 9911151
E-mail: marmolenorenf@central.
adzu.edu.ph

Master in Business Management (MBM)

Requirements:
- university graduate or equivalent
- minimum 2 years work experience

Course Description:
- 2-year full time program
- develops mature and highly capable managers for large corporations
- enhances functional competencies with a generalist orientation

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Requirements:
- university graduate or equivalent
- minimum 6 years work experience with 3 years in supervisory / managerial capacity

Course Description:
- 11-month program on business leadership and management
- enriches intellectual and behavioral skills of leader-managers

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Requirements:
- university graduate or equivalent
- minimum 6 years work experience with 3 years in supervisory / managerial capacity

Course Description:
- 11- month intensive, innovative and practitioner-oriented program designed to prepare development executives and practitioners to manage and lead public and civil society organizations, cooperatives and private non-profit firms, amidst economic and political transitions

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1. Submit completed application form*, original or certified true copy of transcript of records, accomplished recommendation forms and (2) copies of recently taken passport-size picture to the Admissions Office.
2. Pay the testing fee of US$20.00 at the cashier.
3. Present your receipt and get your exam permit with assigned test date and venue from the Admissions Office.
4. Examination starts at 12:45 pm and ends at 5:00 pm.

*downloadable from our website or apply on-line.
Please bring the following on the test date: test permit, two (2) pencils, two (2) black ballpens and a scientific calculator.

REPLY FORM PDI

I want to sign up for the AIM Admissions Test. Please send me information about the program/s I have checked below:
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☐ Master in Management (MM)
☐ Master in Development Management (MDM)

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Company: ________
Position: ________
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Tel/Fax: ________ E-mail: ________

Mail/e-mail or fax reply form to:

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Col. Joseph R. McMicking Campus
123 Paseo De Roxas
Makati City, Philippines

MCPO Box 2095
Trunklines (632) 8924011 to 25
Telefax: (632) 8937631
E-mail: admissions@aim.edu.ph
http://www.aim.edu.ph

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People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Aries Espinosa
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month a success

LAST Feb. 15, over 2000 persons gathered today at the San Lorenzo Village in Makati to promote awareness on Down Sydrome as they paraded through the Makati Commercial Center wearing Buddy Walk T-shirts and distributing leaflets of information on Down Syndrome to the public. The parade that lasted about 1 hour featured many persons with Down syndrome of all ages and from all walks of life as well as many more supporters - relatives, friends and personalities who share in the goal of the association to promote nationwide awareness of the Down syndrome condition and to help in educating the public on the great potential that children with DS posses to live normal lives.

It is estimated that one child with DS is born every two hours somewhere in the Philippines, most often to parents who have no idea of the potential of their child, much less how to begin to provide the proper care and much needed medical attention for them. There are approximately 95,000 children with DS all over the Philippines today, and just like many other places in the world, accurate knowledge on DS was discovered fair recently. For many of these children, this knowledge could dispel fears, replace disappointment with understanding, and enable parents to love their children that would spell the difference between a normal life and one hidden in a closet.

The Buddy Walk was one of the highlights celebrating the National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month first held this February and every year thereafter by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 157. The Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines has branch offices in Cebu and Davao, as well as an active affiliate in Bacolod, where simultaneous Buddy Walks held, attracted over 4,000 participants nationwide. For more information, please contact the following offices:

Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines Inc. - MRCFI Building, Camila St., Guadalupe Viejo, Rockwell Compound, Makati City. Tel. Nos. 895-9642 or 895-3606 / email: dsapi@hotmail .com. Website: www.downsydrome.ph.web1000.com

DSAPI - Davao Branch Office c/o Anflocor, Damosa Complex, Lanang Commercial Center, Davao City. Telefax No. (82) 234-2280

DSAPI - Cebu Branch Office c/o Juanito King Foundation Inc. 8th Floor Cebu Holdings Center, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City. Tel. No. (32) 232-6061 / Fax No. (32) 232-6063

Affiliate/Member - Bacolod c/o Child's Play (034) 433-6411 / 434-1734.

ews that makes a diffe

CLARISSA T. Ortiz, Melissa Warren and Ninette Davadilla visits the office of Philippine Daily Inquirer, the major sponsor of the National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month, month long activities.

THE SAFEST CAR IN THE WORLD

VOLVO Cars supports the National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month. President and CEO lawyer Albert Arcilla takes a break from his busy schedule to welcome special kids: Ninette, Clarissa, Melissa and John at the Volvo showroom in Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City. Volvo donated P50,000 in celebration of the National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month.

THE LAKESHORE ACCREDITED BY METROBANK

The Lakeshore, owned and being developed by Central County Estate Inc., has been accredited by Metrobank for 'End-buyer's Financing.' Buyers' now have the chance to borrow from Metrobank for their lot or house and lot purchase at The Lakeshore. The Lakeshore is a 234-hectare development in Mexico Pampanga with, residential, commercial, recreational and institutional facilities with a 12-hectare man-made lake as its main feature. Shown in photo is Metrobank's Christina M. Velasco, acct. officer; Ma. Lourdes Abellar, VP for home financing division; CCEI's architect Nestor Mangio, president/CEO; Emely Serrano-Medina, VP for sales and marketing; Jose Ramon Diaz, financial comptroller.

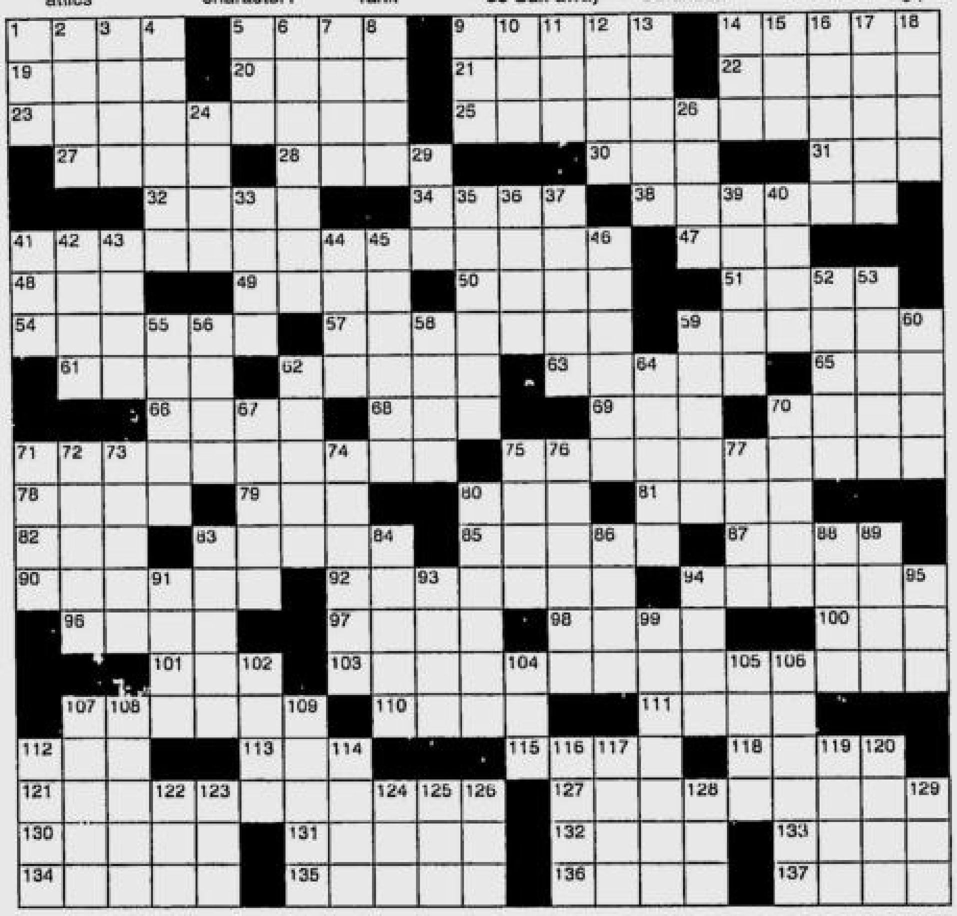
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

SWIPED!

ACROSS
1 TV's "The — Show"
5 Pinnacle
9 Elfman of "Dharma & Greg"
14 Terra —
19 Burn remedy
20 Make murky
21 "There's — Out Tonight" ('61 hit)
22 Took on board
23 Clingy critters
25 Start of a remark
27 Self-smitten
28 Change for a five
30 Papal name
31 Pipe cleaner?
32 — impasse
34 Part of CPA
38 Hackney's home
41 Part 2 of remark
47 Ram's ma'am
48 Teachers' org.
49 — mater
50 Guitar accessory
51 Neighbor of Can.
54 Calculus
57 Went along with
59 Like some attics
61 Commoner
62 Dentist's weapon?
63 Macabre
65 One — customer
66 Jury member
68 Nonclerical
69 Deli delicacy
70 Gourmet Graham
71 Part 3 of remark
75 Part 4 of remark
78 Set up the ball
79 First lady?
80 Letters of desperation?
81 Place for a patch
82 Woodworking tool
83 Hunt like a hound
85 Atlanta campus
87 February forecast
90 Knight wear?
92 Breakfast food
94 Singing Wonder
96 Baseball's Nolan
97 Cassette
98 Pons or Ponselle
100 Shady character?
101 "For shame!"
103 Part 5 of remark
107 Treasure
110 "The Wind in the Willows" character
111 Sink or swim?
112 PC key
113 Cutesy suffix
115 Hammett hound
118 Basics
121 End of remark
127 Turnpike feature
130 "— Gay"
131 More advanced
132 Moro of Italy
133 Soho streetcar
134 Mouth-watering
135 White wine
136 Regensburg refusal
137 Tropical tuber

DOWN
1 Yak
2 Norwegian king
3 115 Across' mistress
4 Friendly
5 Circle section
6 Harland Sanders' rank
7 Bearing
8 In addition
9 — alai
10 Cassowary kin
11 Figs.
12 Yuletide
13 Aconcagua's locale
14 Comic Margaret
15 Garage supply
16 Sing like a soprano
17 Topol role
18 "Zip- — -Doo-Dah"
24 Pro foe
26 Lug
29 Patriotic org.
33 At a distance
35 "Northern Exposure" town
36 Dressed
37 Home on the range?
39 Mindful
40 Bartok or Lugosi
41 Cable channel
42 Bucket of bolts
43 Butz or Warren
44 Actor Epps
45 Glib
46 Sings on a mountain
52 Out to get
53 Salt away
55 Not so hot
56 Cain's victim
58 "The Great Pacificator"
59 Forward-looking Jeane
60 Dry goods measure
62 Ambition
64 Foe of Apollo
67 Vertical
70 New Hampshire city
71 A Four Corners state
72 More up-to-date
73 Savalas of "Kojak"
74 Duration
75 Major- —
76 Tristan's tootsie
77 Unisex garment
80 One of the Finger Lakes
83 Austen title start
84 Characteristic
86 Sudden attack
88 "Glad All —" ('64 hit)
89 Feral
91 Lauer or LeBlanc
93 Lhasa —
94 Content completely
95 Printer's measures
99 "The Four Seasons" composer
102 Military chapeau
104 Nutritional abbr.
105 Grouch
106 Costello's crony
107 Skater Berezhnaya
108 Barber's need
109 Early emancipator
112 Blows away
114 '52 Winter Olympics site
116 Laurel or Lee
117 Lacquered metalware
119 Puppeteer Baird
120 Old Glory feature
122 Ransom — Olds
123 Deranged
124 Actress Lupino
125 Neighbor of Calif.
126 SAT's big brother
128 Cambodia's — Nol
129 Medical grp.



ANSWER ON PAGE F3

New cargo service vows faster delivery to Bicol, Eastern Visayas

PHILTRANCO Biyaheng Pinoy Kargo, the new cargo service of the country's pioneering bus company, now offers even faster and more secure shipment of packages and cargo to and from Bicol, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

Using Philtranco's fleet of more than 300 carrier buses that daily traverse the entire length of the Philippines' southern corridor from Pasay to Davao, Biyaheng Pinoy Kargo assures shippers that crates and documents brought to it for delivery are on their way in less than a day.

"The formula for this fast service is really simple," says Philtranco president Alejandro R. Yague Jr. "We dispatch buses every ten minutes on the average from any of our stations and terminals nationwide, 24 hours a day. This means that cargo shipments are loaded at the first available opportunity, ensuring they get to their destinations on time with even less hassle," he added.

Most of Philtranco's new fleet of buses have been configured to carry higher payload. Cargo express buses as they are known, have ample space to accommodate large crates even as passenger comfort is not sacrificed.

"At an average two tons of cargo per bus, we can move more than 600 tons of goods anywhere in the country in a day," says Louie dela Cruz, Philtranco cargo manager. "This is a boon to wholesalers and retailers especially in Bicol and Eastern Visayas who need not carry large inventories. Philtranco's efficient cargo service assures them of just-in-time delivery," he added.

Philtranco is the only bus company that passes through more than 1000 cities, municipalities and barangays throughout the country as part of a day's work. Its wide and extensive network in Bicol, Samar, Leyte and Northern Mindanao, allows it to handle cargo service in way-off areas not formally serviced by airlines or shipping companies.

Yague believes Philtranco's extensive reach is Biyaheng Pinoy Kargo's competitive edge. "Bicol and Samar are problem areas for shippers and forwarders because they get serviced by air or sea transport at less frequency compared to other bigger cities in the south," he says. "This is no big deal for us. Our buses are in Bicol in seven hours at the minimum; in Eastern Visayas in about 14 hours, making us the fastest and most reliable carrier along these route's he proudly adds.

Philtranco's entry into the cargo delivery business validates its earlier projection that people will travel less as a result of advances in telecommunication. Yague avers that most businessmen will now call or just text their orders to their suppliers in Manila. And expect these goods to be delivered right at their doorstep. "Whoever handles this delivery for them faster and at less cost, gets that part of the business. Biyaheng Pinoy Kargo intends to fill that gap," Yague adds.

BITS Clips

PPO in Concert at the Park

THE NATIONAL Arts Month celebration at "Concert at the Park" culminates this Sunday, Feb. 23, 5 p.m. with the country's premier orchestra, the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, under its musical director and principal conductor Italian maestro Ruggero Barbieri. Susan Fernandez is program host. "Concert at the Park" is a weekly cultural project of the National Parks Development Committee and the National Broadcasting Network. It is aired nationwide every Thursday at 6 p.m. over Channel 4. PPO's presentation includes WA Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (1st Movement)", G. Rossini's "William Tell Overture (Finale)", GF Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" from "Messiah", N. Abelardo's "Mutya ng Pasig", and C. de Guzman's "Bayan Ko". Admission to the concert is free.

Amore marks 1st year

THE ALLIANCE for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore) program celebrates its first anniversary with an ongoing photo exhibit at the Edsa Mall, Glorietta I, Ayala Center, Makati City, until today, Feb. 23. "Amore: Light & Life, A Photo Exhibit" is a depiction of the lives and the environment of the people of Western and Central Mindanao where the Amore Program is operating. The exhibit captures in vivid color the opportunities and benefits that the Amore program is bringing to its beneficiary communities. The Amore program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAid). Winrock International implements the Amore program in partnership with the Department of Energy, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and the private sector.

Test drive new Ford Ranger

ONE OF the most powerful members of the Ford "No Boundaries" family is here, the New Ford Ranger. Here is your chance to test drive the most powerful pick-up in its class. Experience challenging courses that you and your 4x4 Ford Ranger will conquer at the Ford Ranger Power Run at the Fort Bonifacio Global City. Special prizes await all power pick-up enthusiasts. Let the power challenge begin! The Ford Ranger Power Run is on Feb 22 and 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. only.

KODAK'S RAFFLE PROMO WINNER

Amie Fay K. Abiera of Novaliches, Q.C. in what is most likely to be her most unforgettable Kodak moment to date, as she receives the 1 million-peso check from Kodak Philippines' general sales manager for consumer imaging, Lino Bernardo. Abiera is the grand prize winner in the recently concluded and successful 'Picture Yourself A Millionaire' raffle promo by Kodak Philippines Ltd. Joining the list of lucky Kodak patrons and winners are 10 lucky Kodak film users who each won P100,000 in the raffle promo. 'Picture Yourself A Millionaire' raffle promo is Kodak's way of thanking its loyal customers for their continuous patronage throughout the years.

Product FILES

Back to the basics for a healthier you

TO COUNTER ailments like cancer, diabetes and heart diseases, people are depending on newer drugs and pills that are being released in the market. Focused on what's modern and advanced, people forget that Mother Nature has always provided solutions to diseases and illnesses.

Among the various herbal supplements that are being marketed in the country, Circulan has a perfect combination because it contains four of the top herbal extracts which ensure good blood circulation: Crataegus or Hawthorn, Gingko Biloba, Garlic Oil and Melissa Officianalis (Lemon Balm).

With these four potent herbs working synergistically together, Circulan works to help improve and promote good blood circulation in the body. It aids in the distribution of blood that allows nutrients to be properly absorbed and utilized.

Circulan herbal supplement is available in all Mercury Drug outlets and other leading drugstores nationwide.

Unilever sponsors 2003 Sife Exposition

FROM Aparri to Jolo, 18 Sife (Students in Free Enterprise) teams are competing in the 2003 Unilever-Sife Philippines International Exposition on Feb 22 and 23 in Iloilo City. These grand finalists bested more than 75 Sife teams in the regional finals, where they presented summaries of their educational outreach projects, designed to teach basic business concepts and how market economies work which they developed and implemented throughout the year. This international exposition will choose the country's representative to the 2003 World Cup to be held in Mainz Hilton, Mainz, Germany, from Oct. 12 to 14. Business leaders have been invited to judge this year's grand finalists. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to deliver the keynote address, while Senate President Franklin Drilon will be the guest of honor. For more information, call Sife Philippines Inc at (033) 509-9811.

'Berks' mall tour

THE STARS of the youth-oriented ABS-CBN program, "Berks," led by John Prats and Heart Evangelista, will be featured in the "Starstudio Mall Tour," 4 p.m. today at the Entertainment Plaza of SM City North Edsa.

Sponsored by Close up, Talk and Text, Rogemson and L. A. Gear, the show also features Sarah Christopher, Mark Adueza, Hazel Ann Mendoza, Carelle Marques, Allyson Lualhati, Kahlil Kaimo, Jay Salas and Frank Garcia.

The show includes exciting production numbers, games, photo and autograph signing sessions.

"Berks" loveteam John Prats and Heart Evangelista grace the cover of Starstudio magazine for the month of February.

Published by ABS-CBN Publishing, Starstudio is available in bookstores and leading magazine stands at P60 a copy.

Third episode

THE THIRD episode of "Up Close and Personal with Marissa del Mar" will be aired at 2 p.m. today on RPN 9.

This is Millicent Productions' offering for the Love Month.

Hosted by former actress Marissa del Mar, the show will have Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as guest.

Also joining the program are former congressman now HUDCC Secretary Mike Defensor and the controversial Mary Rose "Rosebud" Ong.

A feature on Asst. State Prosecutor Pal Exevea of the Department of Justice will also be presented.

Since the episode is for the Valentine season, some interesting people including a gay man, a saleslady and a security guard will be interviewed about love.

A feature story on an outreach program for fire victims in Tanauan, Batangas win also be included in the episode.

In forthcoming shows, Marissa says they will feature various segments on business, government agencies and the youth.

"I'd like my show to be as broad and interesting as possible," Marissa says. "I'm enjoying every minute of my hosting job. This is what I love to do and for me, it's not work, just a chance to cultivate the little talent that I have while encouraging others to set a goal in their lives.

"Anyone can achieve anything they dream of if they work hard for it. Life is short, enjoy it and give praise to God and everything else will follow."

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AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS	1 DAREDEVIL	1 SWEPT AWAY (EXCLUSIVE) 00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 DAREDEVIL 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	THX 1 DAREDEVIL
2 HERO	2 THE EYE	2 DAREDEVIL 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 DAREDEVIL 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00, 11:25	2 DAREDEVIL
3 DAREDEVIL	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 DAREDEVIL 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	OGIE ALCASID: OA SA PUSO Feb 28 & Mar. 1	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 DAREDEVIL 11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35	3 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
4 DAREDEVIL	4 ABANDON		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 HERO 11:45, 2:20, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00	4 ABANDON
	5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE 12:55, 3:05, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35	5 TWO WEEKS NOTICE
	6 DAREDEVIL			
	7 SHANGHAI KNIGHTS			

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333.
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

The Ayala mall Events
AYALA CENTER
ALABANG TOWN
AYALA CENTER CEBU

The Powerpuff Girls LIVE
Saving the World Before Bedtime Musical

saving the World before Bedtime

MAKATI
Feb 20 6pm
Feb 21 3pm 6pm
Feb 22 & 23 11am, 3pm, 6pm
Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG
March 7 to 9
11am, 3pm, 6pm
Activity Center

CEBU
Feb 28 4pm, 6:30pm
Mar 1 11am, 3pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm
Mar 2 11:30am, 3pm, 6pm
Activity Center

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DON'T GET LEFT BEHIND
AS A GENERATION'S FINAL JOURNEY BEGINS AT
TIMEZONE AYALA CINEMAS

nemesis
OPENS ON MARCH 12
AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS
VIVA
united international pictures
TIMEZONE

Promo Mechanics:

1. For every single purchase worth P500 new or re-load Powercard, get the chance to win cool Nemesis prizes.
2. Customer will pick from the Nemesis Perk Box located at the Timezone redemption counters in Glorietta 4, Glorietta 2, Alabang Town Center Main & Cinema and Greenbelt 3 to win any of the following: Nemesis Mini Poster, Bookmark, Key Chain, Watch, Glorietta 4 Cinema Passes (for 2), Glorietta 1 Cinema Passes (for 2), and Timezone Powercard (P100 load) The Powercard will be valid only at the center where the Powercard was won.
3. Prizes indicated in the game stub will be given instantly.
4. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion.
5. Promo is valid in Glorietta, Alabang and Greenbelt Timezone centers only.

Valid from Feb. 17 to Mar 12.

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0696, Series of 2003.

AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS FEB. 26 EXCLUSIVELY AT
ArtFilm
Greenbelt 1

UNLEASH THE GURU WITHIN
THE GURU

THE GURU
HEATHER GRAHAM MARISA TOMEI
JIMI MISTRY

"Stirs together Bollywood and Hollywood, satire and romance, to create an appealing masala dish of a movie."
-- Robert K. Elder, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Mistry and co-star Heather Graham lend a fetching naiveté to their characters."
-- Carla Meyer, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"THE GURU will leave you grinning from ear to ear."
-- Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

SPECIAL THANKS TO:
NOKIA INQUIRER

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)

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PELIKULA at LIPUNAN 2003
AT SM ILOILO, CINEMA 3

	SCHEDULE FOR TODAY
11AM	Animation Program
1:30PM	NEW SHORT WORKS
4PM	Waywaya *by Lamberto Avellana*
6:30PM	Working Girls *by Ishmael Bernal*

SHOWING TONIGHT!!
THE ILOILO PREMIERE
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AMORES PERROS
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GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

LANTAW NA KITA! KAGTO NA SA FESTIVAL!
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flip

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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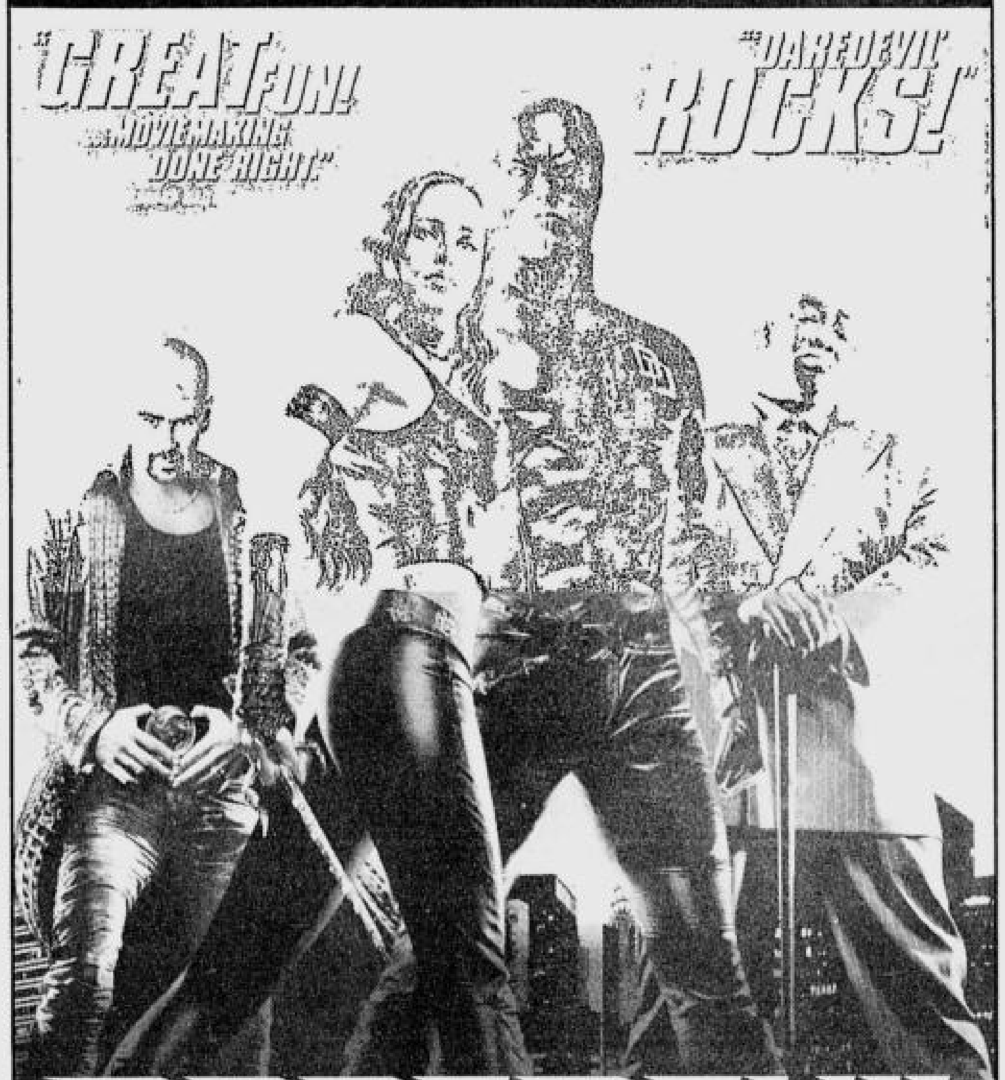
SCOTT BOWLES, USA TODAY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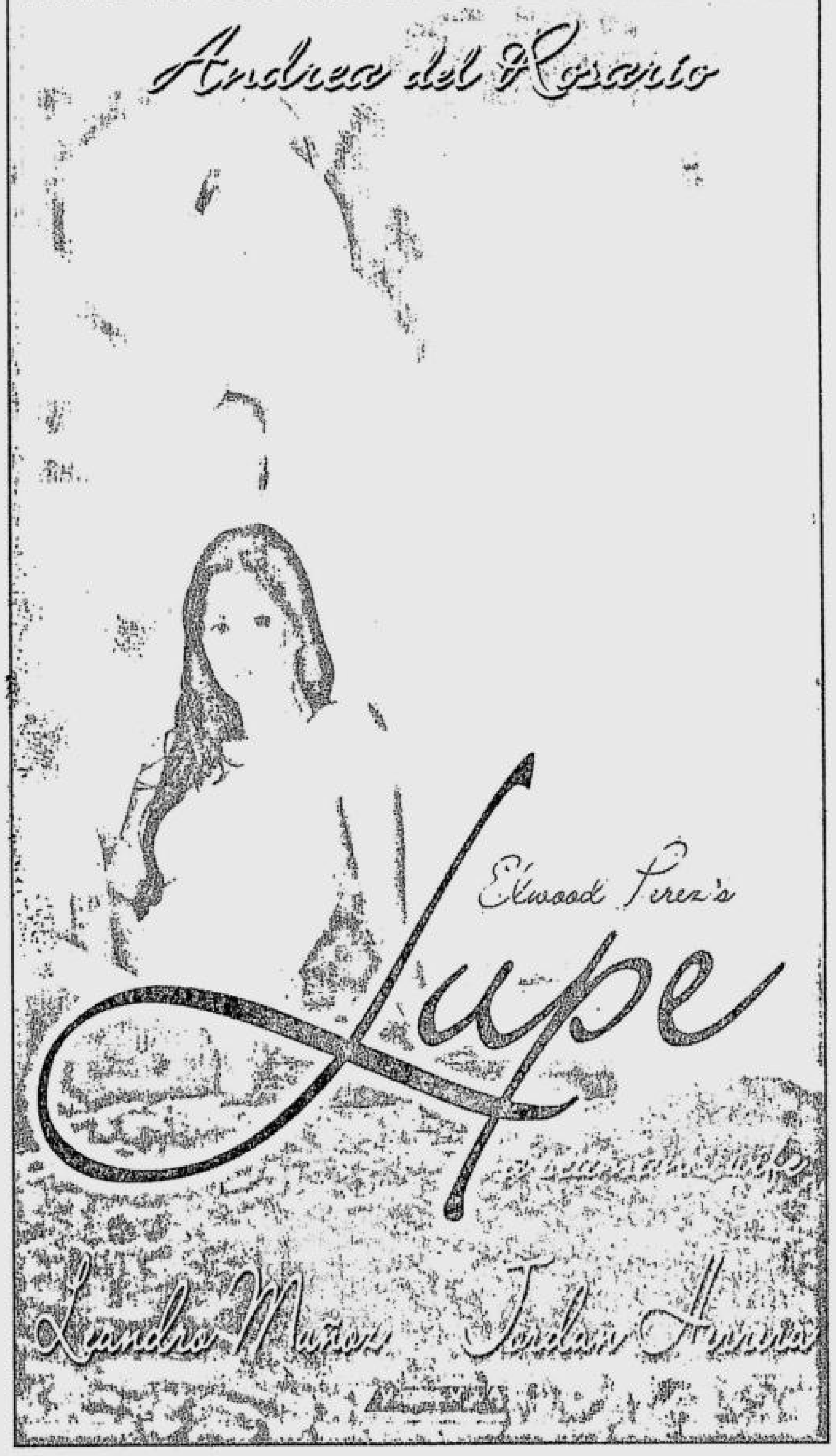
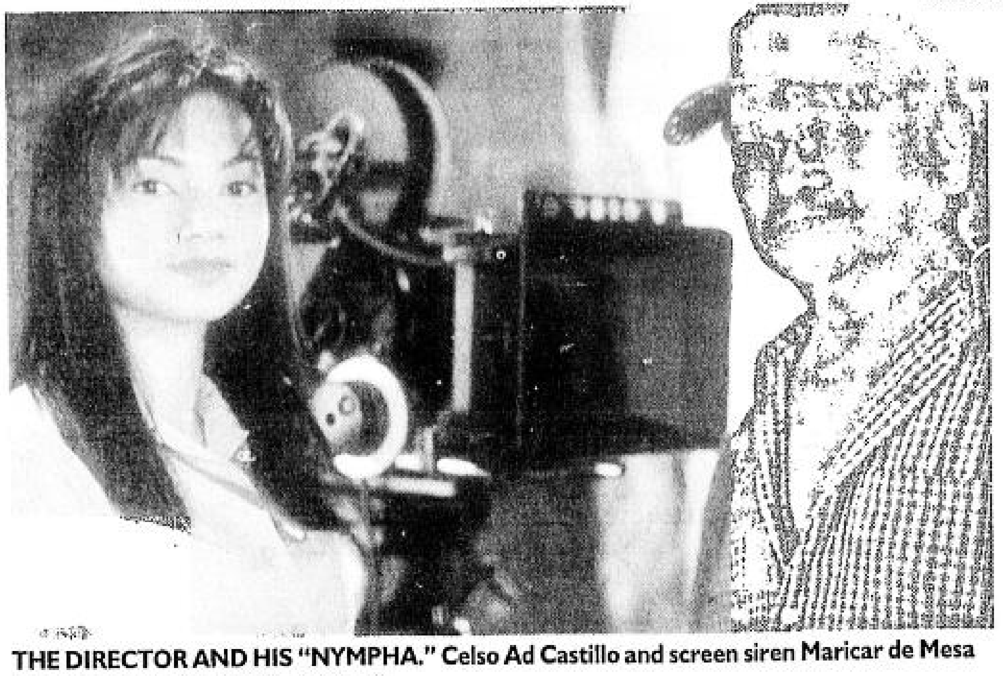




THE DIRECTOR AND HIS "NYMPHA." Celso Ad Castillo and screen siren Maricar de Mesa whom he calls a "sensitive actress."

Celso remains a 'Kid' at heart

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

HE IS not called "master of sex in cinema" for nothing.

Celso Ad Castillo made his mark in local movies by creating a stir in the early '70s, with his sex flicks which were once even condemned as "pornography."

His original "Nympha," was hailed as one of the best movies of the decade, along with his "Asedillo," which starred **Fernando Poe Jr.**

"Nympha" became the second Filipino movie that qualified for competition category in the 1971 Venice Film Festival, after **Manuel Conde**'s "Genghis Khan."

"Nympha" was shot in black and white and starred a relative newcomer whom Celso simply christened as **Rizza (Estrella Fabian** in real life). The film earned for Celso his first Famas nomination as best director, up against **Gerry de Leon**'s "Lilet," which starred **Celia Rodriguez.**

"Gerry influenced my formative years in cinematic artistry," Celso allows.

Celso further reinforced his reputation as director of sex flicks with "The Virgin" which again starred Rizza, "Ang Pinakamagandang Hayop sa Balat ng Lupa" with **Gloria Diaz** in the original version and **Ruffa Gutierrez** in the remake, "Ang Madugong Daigdig ni Salvacion" with **Pilar Pilapil**, "Virgin People" with **Pepsi Paloma, Janet Bordon** and **Myrna Castillo**, "Isla" with **Maria Isabel Lopez**, "Brown Emmanuelle" with **Myrna Castillo**, and "Paradise Inn" with **Lolita Rodriguez** and **Vivian Velez.**

"Snake Sisters" was a controversial film because of its sex scenes and was never released for commercial exhibition. It starred Pepsi Paloma, **Sarsi Emmanuel** and **Coca Nicolas.**

"Burlesk Queen" in 1977, which starred **Vilma Santos**, gave Celso his first best director award, besting other film greats such as **Lino Brocka, Ishmael Bernal, Mike de Leon, Eddie Romero** and **Augusto Buenaventura.**

The remake by **Jose Carreon** in "Anak ng Burlesk Queen," with **Ina Raymundo** in the lead, is a "sacrilege," according to Celso.

"Viva, which owns the rights to 'Burlesk Queen,' was earlier planning a remake with **Anjanette Abayari, Vina Morales** or **Gelli de Belen**," Celso offers. "But none of the actresses went on to do the film. So when the version with Ina Raymundo was shown, I felt I had no rights anymore to the film."

Celso was only 21 when he did his first film, "Misyong Mapanganib" (1965), which signaled his independent filmmaking years. The movie gave **Tito Galla**, brother of **Gloria Romero**, his first starring role opposite **Helen Gamboa.**

At 27, he directed Fernando Poe Jr. in "Asedillo," which gave the action star a Famas best actor award.

Celso went on to direct FPJ in other films like "Santo Domingo," "Ang Alamat" and "Esteban."

"Pagputi ng Uwak," with Vilma Santos and **Bembol Roco**, established Celso's identity as a filmmaker.

Celso, however, tried his hand in other film genres. He wrote and directed even horror flicks like the **Susan Roces-Rosanna Ortiz** classic, "Patayin Mo sa Sindak si Barbara." The remake of **Chito Roño** starred **Lorna Tolentino** and **Dawn Zulueta.**

Celso also did comedy, romance and even musical, working with first-rate actors in local cinema.

He directed **Christopher de Leon** in "Ang Alamat ni Julian Makabayan," **Dante Rivero** and **Hilda Koronel** in "Ang Gangster at ang Birhen," **Jay Ilagan** in "Ato Ti Bondying," **Elizabeth Oropesa** in "Uhaw na Dagat," **Lito Lapid** in "Pedro Tunasan," **Dina Bonnevie** and **Gary Estrada** in "Tag-araw, Tag-ulan," **German Moreno** in "Payaso," Gloria Diaz in "Ang Daigdig ay Isang Butil na Luha," **Sunshine Cruz** in "Lihim ni Madonna" and **Ramon Zamora** in "Pedro Penduko" and "Return of the Dragon."

In 1996, Celso did "Virgin People 2," with Sunshine Cruz, **Sharmaine Suarez** and **Anna Capri.**

That same year, he launched Via **Veloso** into bold stardom in the remake of "Isla."

Celso also acted in a number of his films, like "Ihalik Mo Ako sa Diyos" with **Vic Vargas**, "Aliw-iw" with **Rio Locsin**, and "Ang Dalagang Pinagtaksilan ng Panahon" with Cecille Castillo.

"Pikoy Goes To Malaysia" saw him in a starring role.

Today, after more than three decades in filmmaking, Celso doesn't look a day older as noted by those who have seen him earlier on in his career.

"That's why they call me 'Kid'," he beams.

Celso is back in an updated version of "Nympha," which stars screen siren **Maricar de Mesa.**

"Nympha" is the story of a young, sheltered girl who struggles to rein in her lust through prayers. But the call of the flesh is stronger than her resolve to remain pure and innocent.

Celso enjoys working with newcomers like Maricar, who was launched to bold stardom last year in **Maryo J. de los Reyes'** sex trilogy, "Bedtime Stories."

"Maricar is a sensitive actress," Celso says of his lead star. "She's the prettiest bold star on the scene, yet she can act. She is an effective bold star because she can arouse libido."

"Nympha" is produced by Regal Entertainment. Celso wrote the script with "Mano Po" screenwriter **Roy Iglesias.**

"Nympha" reunites Celso with his original "Hayop" lead star Gloria Diaz, who plays the religious but sexually repressed adoptive aunt of Maricar. Also in the cast are **Tirso Cruz III, Dino Guevarra, Cholo Medina, Bing Victoria** and **Antonio Aquitania.**

Screen hunk **John Apacible** plays the offbeat character of the town idiot, a familiar fixture in Celso's films. **Lito Anzures** portrayed it in "Hayop," while **Roldan Aquino** did it in "Isla."

Celso filmed "Nympha" in the old towns of Laguna and gave the story stunning visual effects even as it blends religious devotion and sex.

Celso believes the bold trend is "the only way" to make the local film industry survive.

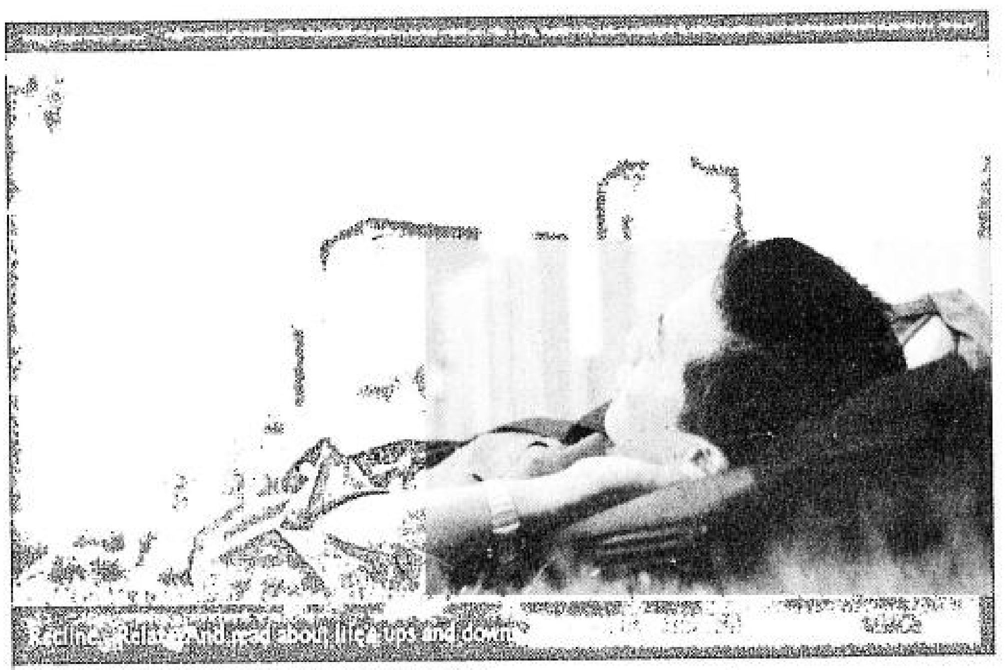
"It happened in Japan before the trend of horror films," Celso explains. "We need to cultivate a new breed of movie-going public who will have a better appreciation of local cinema. There's a clamor for quality films and industry people cannot sustain that demand.

"But we're the only one in Asia whose film industry is surviving. Japan changed its trend in filmmaking. Even Indian movies had a decline. We cope even with the abundance of technology and our exposure to Hollywood films."

"Nympha" will have a sneak preview at 7 tomorrow night, Feb. 24, at the UP Film Center in Diliman, Quezon City.

Celso and his lead star Maricar de Mesa, with Gloria Diaz, will grace the event.

The UP Film Center has been a venue to exhibit uncut and controversial films, with strong sexual and political themes.



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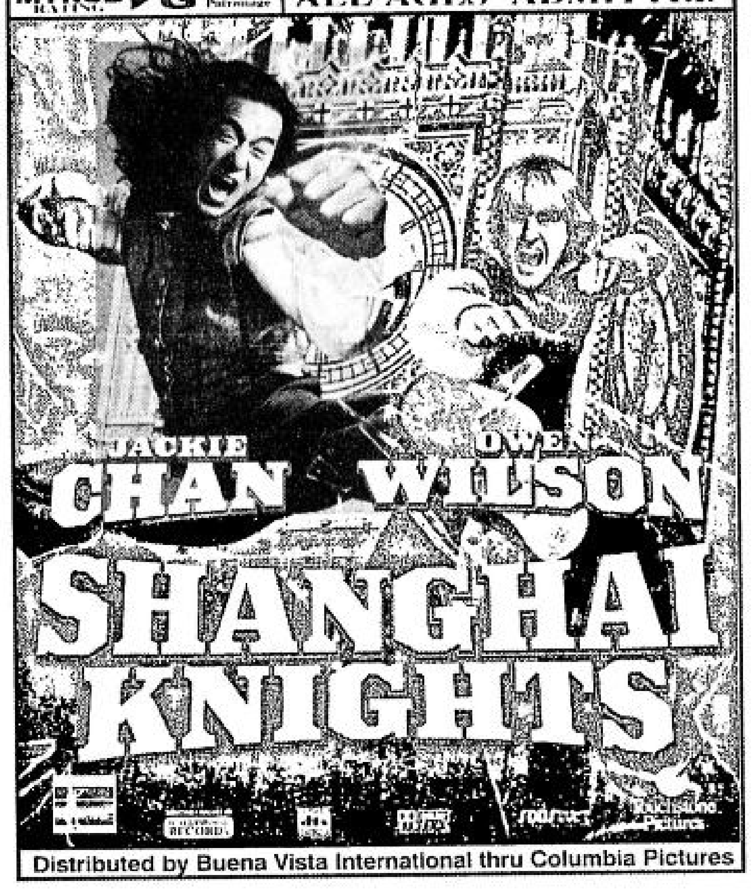

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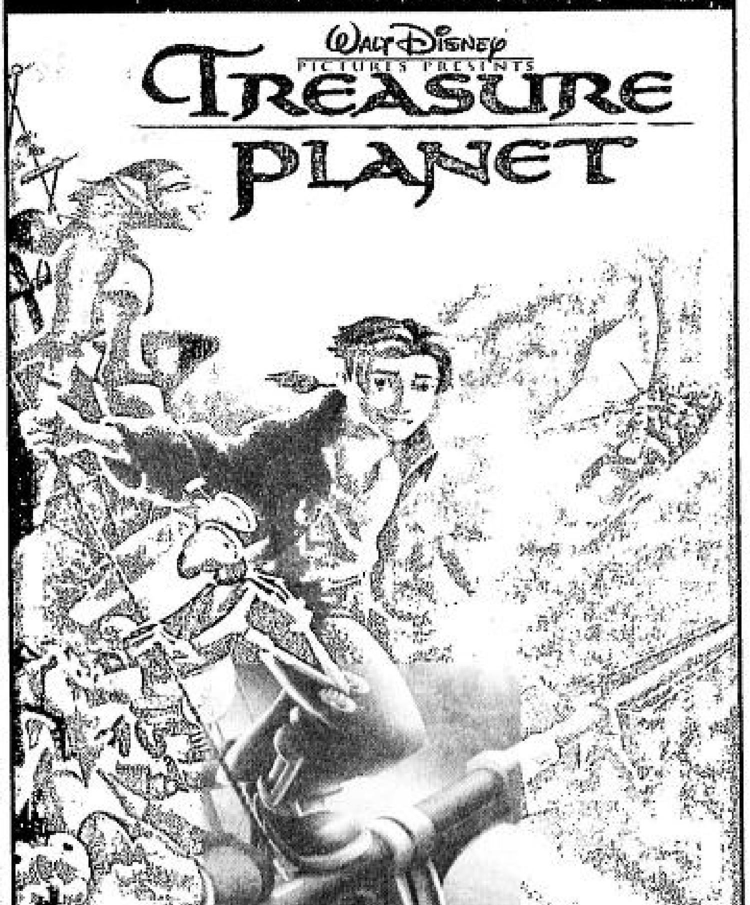

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- "Pang-Oscar ang kalidad ng Magnifico" - Jickie de Cubna, Intrigipedia
- "Would that we all support this movie with lots of heart and the strength of its quite and hopeful honesty" - Rosi Jimenez-David, Philippine Daily Inquirer
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Violett

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	AB NORMAL
Ali 2	AMAZON
Ali 3	SHANGHAI KNIGHTS
Ali 4	DAREDEVIL
Ali 5	DAREDEVIL
Ali 6	THEY
Ali 7	ABANDON

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	TOMAGAN
Farmers 2	DAREDEVIL

ARANETA COLISEUM	
FEB 23	PBA OPENING GAMES
FEB 28	MARTIN & POPS CONCERT
MARCH 1	JOLINA MANIA CONCERT

ELEPHANT WORLD	
FEB 23	3 PM / 5 PM
FEB 25	10 AM
FEB 26	10 AM

Benefit concert

NHELLEY de la Rosa, a Netherlands-based Filipina singer now making waves in Europe, is back home for a short stint.

Nhelley will be the main performer in "More Than Valentine—For The Next Generation," a benefit concert at 8 tonight at Onstage Theater in Greenbelt, Makati City.

Guests are former South Border vocalist Luke Mejares and Sunny (of Brown Sugar band).

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Recruitment offices mushroom to meet demand for nurses

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

THE PROSPECTS for Filipino nurses abroad have never been brighter than today.

The United States for example needs an estimated 600,000 nurses between now and 2010.

Demand for nurses abroad especially in the United States and United Kingdom has prompted human resources firms like GlobalCare Inc. to step up its efforts to recruit Filipino nurses to supply the huge shortage in the two countries.

GlobalCare Inc. works with leading hospitals in the United States to create and promote recruiting opportunities in English-speaking countries, including the Philippines, UK and Ireland.

"We give permanent solution to the nursing shortage problem," says Edward Solomon, president and CEO of GlobalCare Inc.

Solomon says they have less schools teaching nursing in the US which is why they need to hire nurses from overseas.

The hospitals are open to the idea because if a hospital brings in a temporary nurse from another US-based hospital, the cost is double.

GlobalCare has a large candidate talent pool where nurses are pre-screened and pre-qualified.

Their minimum qualification is a BS Nursing degree and should have an average three to five years of ICU experience.

Once the nurses pass the exam, they have to take a leave to study to accelerate their integration in the hospital.

The candidates undergo a six-stage quality process: requirements, selection, INS compliance, credential program, delivery, loyalty and warranty to ensure that the hospitals that will be hiring them will get experienced nurses from leading international hospitals.

All nurses are pre-screened for assertiveness, verbal and written communication skills, critical thinking, and social and leadership abilities.

"We put nurses through this process to give them (hospitals) the best," says Solomon.

He says the remittances coming from the Filipino nurses would definitely fuel the inflow of dollars in the country.

Solomon says they recognize that there is a shortage in nurses that is why they implemented a fast track process.

"In nine to 12 months, we can actually get a green card or permanent status for someone coming from the Philippines."

"When the nurses come in as a green card [holder], they can bring in their immediate family over if they want because they are permanent residents, which is unheard of before," says Solomon.

"We also find them housing in the US. We hire them and we settle them, and we do that for a month and by that time they are already familiar with the community."

GlobalCare creates partnerships with hospitals to deliver the finest nurses in the world. Among its clients are Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System, Oak Valley Hospital.

The shortage is all over the United States but the focus of their recruitment is in California, Florida and Texas.

Will the Filipino nurses get the same pay with their American counterparts?

"Yes," says Solomon. This is because the education system for Nursing here and in the United States is the same and the tests that they take up are the same. "It just equates to what they are qualified for," he furthers.

The hospital will pay on a base rate per hour. An average nurse will earn from $22-$39 per hour or $200-$500 a month.

"We are also finding a lot of male nurses, ER nurses. A lot of hospitals want some balance between female and male nurses," says Solomon.

GlobalCare started their operations in January 2002. The first batch of nurses will begin working in the United States this summer.

Solomon also talks of the advantage of having one of their offices here in the Philippines. Global Resource Center is located at the 23rd Floor of Enterprise Center, Makati City.

He also takes pride in having a Filipino CEO, Corazon Bautista who takes care of processing in the country.

THE UNITED States is estimated to need 600,000 nurses by 2010.

Entrepreneur builds hotel from rubble in 40 days

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TACLOBAN, LEYTE—There must be something about the number 40 that it has figured in many major events in the Bible.

With that as an inspiration, entrepreneur Wilson Chan has decided to raise the abandoned Leyte Park Hotel from the dead within that short period of time. And build it he did through some unconventional management decisions.

CHAN

'Foolish' decision

Chan tells Business Monday during an interview here that people must have found his decision foolish because Leyte Park was in a sad state of disrepair when he took over the lease.

Leyte Park was actually built in 1979 on the former military Camp Bampos. At its height it was the frequent site of the extravagant parties of the former First Lady Imelda Marcos, who came from Leyte.

The Asset Privatization Trust took over the property during the Aquino administration and a long-term lease contract was offered to the public. A private company won the contract in 1995 but it was not able to operate it. It was then that Chan took over the lease.

Chan was approached to take over the contract because he is an old hand in running businesses. The third of 10 children born to Chinese parents, he has been working in his father's company since he was in high school.

His father used to own the local electric company and ice plant and several hardware shops. Chan later diversified into the construction industry, putting his engineering degree and Master's Degree in Business Management to good use.

So when he was approached to take over the hotel, he thought that it made good business.

"It was funny because I just went in to meet the APT people at 10 in the morning and by 1 in the afternoon I had to contract. I remember saying to myself oh no, I'm dead. It is really serious now," he says.

Chan, however, has never been afraid to take on a challenge so he set off to have the hotel back on its feet in time for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Leyte Landing on Oct. 20, 1994.

"My people and I then went to the different churches and within two days we had as many as 1,200 people working round the clock to put some semblance of order back to the hotel," he says.

Most of these workers were unemployed women, out-of-school youth and unskilled workers.

First days

What they saw during the first few days of going into the hotel almost made Chan give up the fight. They had to move 140 truckloads of dirt, clean out the refrigerators of rotting butter and steaks and get rid of the snakes that have made their homes in the six-hectare property.

"I paid people P50 for every snake that they would catch. It was fun because people were banging caserolas all over the place to drive the snakes out of their hiding places. Soon we got rid of them," Chan says.

Other people on his employ, on the other hand, had to hurriedly trace the water line, drainage areas and electrical wires so that repairs could be made on the hotel itself.

But after three weeks of working at a frenzied pace, the workers' energy started to wane and they were also starting to doubt that they would be able to get the hotel up in time for the big event, the biggest in the province's history.

"I had to look for ways to encourage them to continue to work fast because we had the deadline to keep," he says.

He decided then to hire a band to play the people some music while they worked during the day, and then karaoke machines were made available to the workers at night.

"It really worked wonders because the music made the people happy while they worked. People got into the spirit of things because many bands would come and volunteer to play for the workers," he recalls.

Chan himself worked side by side with the people. An engineer by profession, he supervised the construction and he was the first to tell the people that they will meet their deadline if they all worked together.

Keeping the people focused on a common goal, and driving them to meet it is, Chan says, the main role of a manager. Although it may take some unconventional means to achieve those goals, then so be it.

"People were always saying that it was impossible for us to do it especially when they saw us during the first few days. But when we were nearing 40 days, they stopped saying that it was impossible. They said that it was a miracle," he says.

A miracle

Chan says he can't help feeling that it was a miracle because putting up a hotel was no joke. He said they even had to literally knock on the doors of all the hardware and lumber stores in the province and even as far as Samar and southern Leyte, even if it was in the middle of the night.

Their efforts did not go to waste as Leyte Park got a new lease on life and opened its doors to the public by the Oct. 20 celebration.

Among the first guests of the 100-room hotel were ambassadors and senators who came to take part in the celebration. There was such a shortage in accommodations in Tacloban and the nearby town of Palo that some rooms had to be occupied by three, five and even 10 people.

"Our record was putting the entire military press corps in one room. It was that bad," he says.

Such high demand for accommodations has since passed although Leyte Park enjoyed good occupancy until 1997 when the Asian currency hit the country hard. Tourist arrivals dropped and so the hotel industry suffered.

Leyte Park, thus, turned to local tourists to keep operations going and it did so by entering into contracts with nearby towns with tourist attractions such as the Sohotan caves and the Marabut marine park.

"Now we have other local government units that want us to include their sites in our tourist package and we are doing that because we want to help promote tourism and awareness," he says.

And Leyte Park is doing it in the same spirit that the 1,200 people did when they built the hotel from the rubble.

What can ...

From page B3

that has a panoramic view of the sea. It is also the wine tasting destination in Palawan. Here, you can sample wines in pineapple, banana and mango flavors churned from their very own winery. The day's tour ends at Estrella Falls, which could be reached by land from Crystal Paradise. It is a haven at the foot of a mountain with clear, cool running water.

For guests who prefer a quite day by the sea, Nagtabon Beach is the suggested destination. Its beach, characterized as gradually slopping, is utterly irresistible with its powder-fine sand and lovely shoreline. Here, you can swim all you want, take a stroll by the shore or simply relax your mind and feast your eyes on the natural beauty that surrounds you. As a bonus, this tour includes an optional trip to the Chicken Island, which is a 30-minute boat ride from Nagtabon Beach.

Whatever choice of nature destination, the PAX package also takes guests to a City Tour of Puerto Princesa. The itinerary includes the Iwahig Penal Farm, a 37-hectare colony known as the oldest prison without bars; the Crocodile Farm and Nature Park, home and breeding laboratory of the Philippine crocodile that also features a forest nature park; Butterfly Farm, where colorful butterflies and flowers abound; Viet Ville, home of the "boat people" and the place to sample authentic Vietnamese cuisine; and the Kamarikutan Cape at Galeri, a souvenir shop and café surrounded by the sights and sounds of nature.

Knowing all too well the lure and charm of Palawan, The Legend Hotel is offering a good deal for guests who decide to extend their stay. For another day tour complete with meals and accommodation, a PAX additional fee of P299/person for an extra night is more than reasonable.

Also available are PAX special rates for children and groups of 5 and above. Those who prefer to arrange their own airfare to Palawan can likewise opt for the PAX P4,599net/person package which also includes a 3 days – 2 nights accommodation at The Legend Hotel Palawan, airport transfers, all meals, a city tour, and a nature experience of choice.

For that long-due respite from an all-too-hectic corporate life, contact the Manila Sales office at 638-9256 and 58 or log on to www.experiencepalawan.com.ph. You may also visit The Legend Hotel Manila at #60 Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City.

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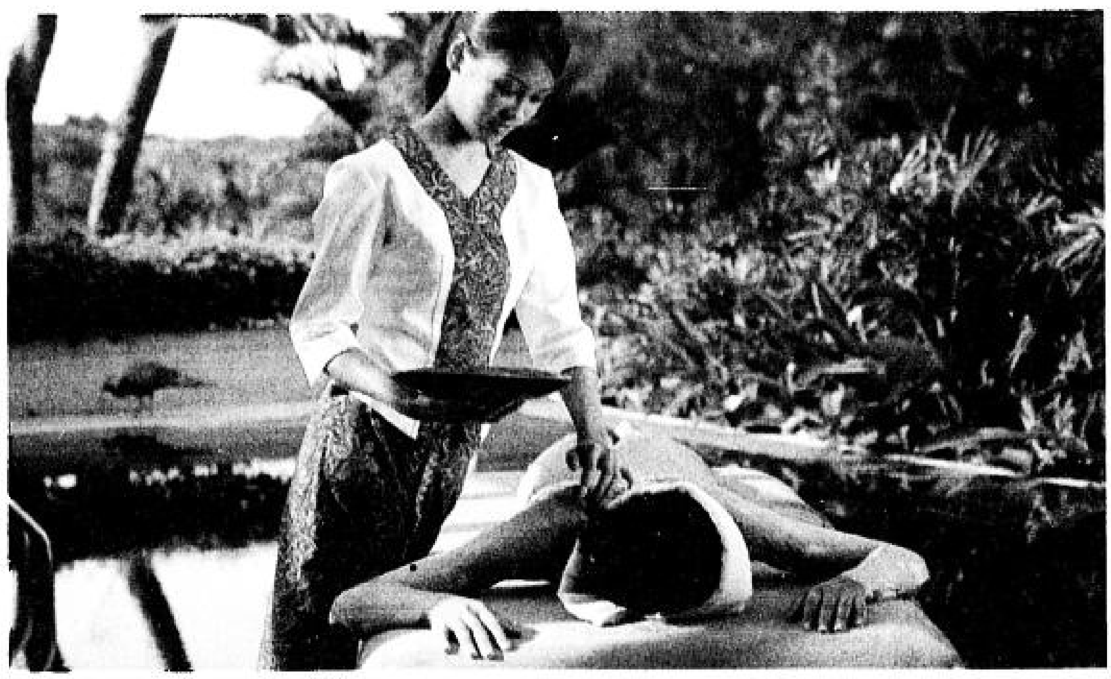
Selling the Lion City as a place for romance


THE SPA business is also big in Singapore.

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

SINGAPORE as a honeymoon destination?

Not a few raised their brows when my husband and I told them we had been invited by the Singapore Tourism Board to spend a "romantic weekend getaway" in the Lion City.

Singapore had always been viewed as a business place, or a shopping destination (before their currency value strengthened), or just a place where everything works.

But marketing Singapore as a place of multiple faces is a strategy of the STB. This is to ensure the continuity of revenue stream from the millions of foreign visitors that go into the tiny country every year.

The STB, the group in charge of selling Singapore to foreigners, needed a couple who will write about the city as a romantic place.

Their choice of theme for the Philippines is not surprising considering STB statistics show that in 2001, 33 percent of the Filipinos who went to Singapore went for a holiday; 13 percent went to visit friends and relatives, 12 percent for business, 13 percent were in transit; 4.3 percent were attending a meeting, convention or exhibit.

Some 200,000 Filipinos go to Singapore every year.

We accepted the trip and took Singapore Airlines, their international flag carrier, which surprisingly took off a few minutes after the scheduled departure.

Upon arrival we just dropped off our things at the Fullerton Hotel, the newly renovated former Post Office.

We had lunch at an Indian restaurant called Vansh (which means generation) in the city's sports complex.

We appeared to be the only diners at that time and our guess is that the place gets full at night.

We asked the STB representative why they think Singapore is a honeymoon destination.

"Because it offers the best of both worlds—it has shopping, has arts and performances, fancy yuppy restaurants. If offers a lot," she states.

She adds that Sentosa Island which is being developed further is very near the city and offers a resort-like atmosphere.

"And more importantly, it is a safe city," she says.

Crime rate remains low in Singapore and pickpockets are a rare breed.

Multiply the tags by 30

Discovering shopping in Singapore was next in the itinerary and we were dropped off along Orchard Road.

Our trip was during the week of the Chinese Lunar New Year and I was expecting the stores to be on sale but only the winter stuff were on discount.

Pricewise, I thought the goods were quite expensive. (No matter what they say, you cannot help but multiply things by 30 which is the exchange rate between the peso and the Singapore dollar).

We had three hours to shop and all I got were bathing suits for my daughters.

Dinner was at the expensive but very disarming Indochine restaurant which serves a fusion of Asian cuisine. The food was excellent and I found out later it is one of the finest restaurants in Singapore today. And a very romantic one.

It is located at the Asian Civilisations Museum II and overlooks the Boat Quay area, just walking distance from the Fullerton Hotel.

The Boat Quay area is a night place with a whole stretch of restaurants that you can dine in or out.

Our guide, Gary Loh, explains that the river used to be polluted, full of vendors and boat quay was full of warehouses. Singapore prime minister at that time, Lee Kuan Yew, decided to clean up the river and change the face of the area. It took the government 10 years to finally clean up the waters and rid it of "tenants" and transformed the place into a night place.

Historical hotel

The following morning we met with our host, Rennie Loh, marketing communications manager of The Fullerton, who showed us around the hotel. Construction for The Fullerton started in 1924 and opened in 1928. It was the largest structure ever built in Singapore. It housed the Post Office, the tax department, the Economic Development Board and other public offices.

A few years ago as part of the government's preservation efforts they sold the building to the Sino Land the Far East Group to develop the structure into a world-class hotel without tearing down the facade.

The contract was that all the original exteriors and interiors be repaired and restored to their original conditions.

The group succeeded and Fullerton is the only hotel in the heart of Singapore's business and civic district. After the hotel tour it was off to a Duck Tour—termed as such because one takes a ride on board an amphibian. The land tour goes around the Suntec city, a huge convention site; and goes into the river to view the Singapore skyline.

No tour of Singapore these days is complete without a show at The Esplanade, one of Asia's most modern theaters. It is also called the Durian because its unique glass ceilings give it the look of the strong-smelling fruit.

It was dinner at the My Humble House after which served really good food with a fantastic view of the Merlion, the symbol of Singapore.

My Humble House is a joint venture between the Tong Luk group, one of the big restaurateurs of Singapore and a China-based lady who has really unique food and interior ideas.

Sentosa island

Sentosa is one of the major islands of Singapore that has a view of Indonesia. It is a resort place with man-made beaches.

Singapore's only garden spa is located in the island—the Beaufort Spa Botanica. It is also the most expensive spa in the country.

We visited the underwater world which had different kinds of fishes and mammals in huge aquariums.

From the island one can take a cable car ride that goes back to the city.

The Night Safari was the next stop. It stands on 40 hectares and it initially cost $63 million. It is divided into eight geographical zones. The night zoo has tapped various companies to help maintain some of the animals. The trip also included a tour of China town which was very crowded because of the New Year. Little India, Arab place—all meant to show the diversity of the country.

The beauty of Singapore does not necessarily lie in its sites and structures. It is in the fact that things work. Traffic is predictable —it usually takes 20 minutes from one point of the city to another.

There is mass transport to rely on. Food is good. You need not fear being cheated by taxi cabs.

Singapore remains as a very good convention site. But what has not been in the minds of the business travellers is that it would do well for them to bring their spouses along on trips to this tiny country in Asia. It is easily a place for a second honeymoon.

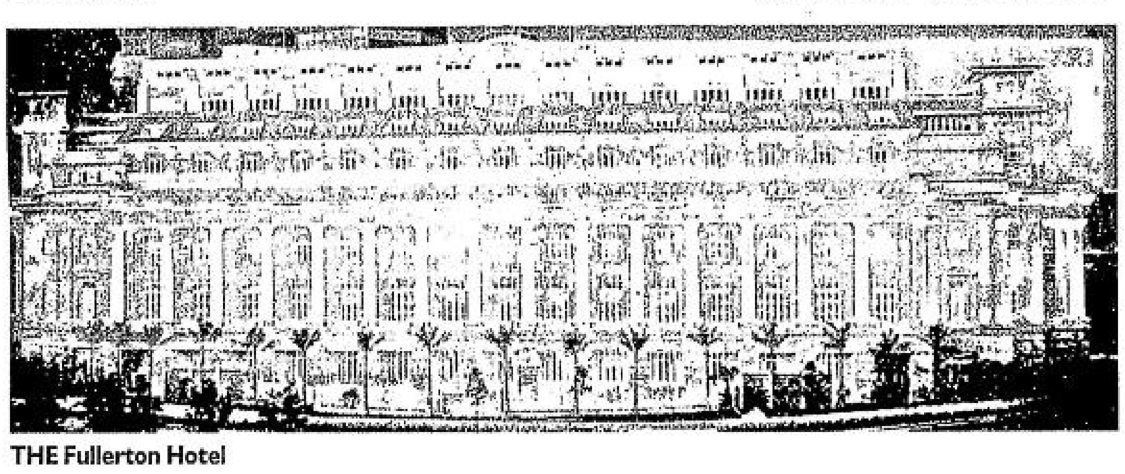
There are "romantic" dinner places to go to; it is safe to walk along its streets; the place is clean and provides sufficient diversity. Husbands need not worry what their wives will do while they are attending their meetings. She can spend the whole day shopping and then meet up for dinner.

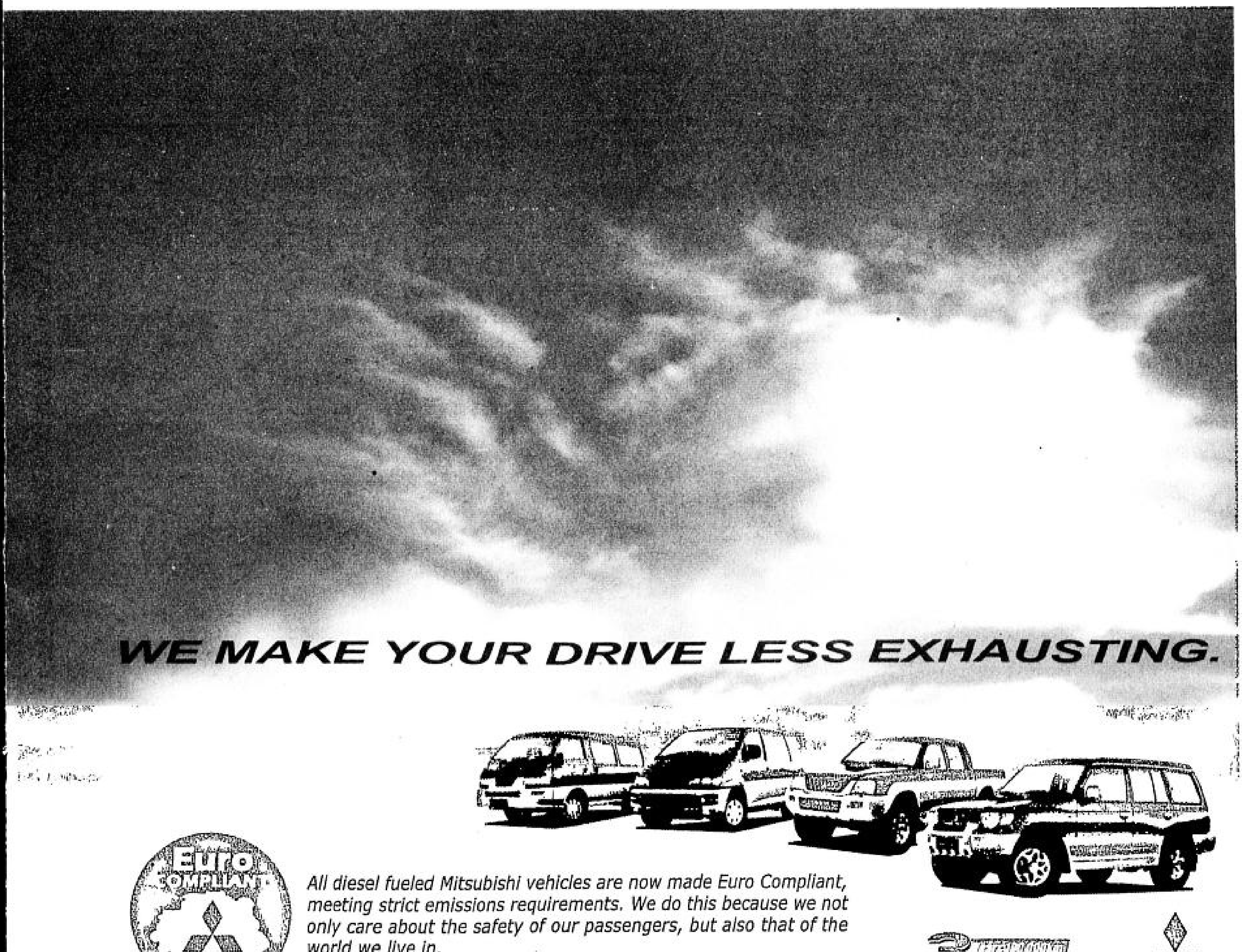
Should the convention be in Sentosa island, she can have a classic honeymoon with the sea and the sun.

It's time to take a look at the Lion City as more than just a business center.

THE FORMER post office offers good dining choices.

SPA botanica


THE Fullerton Hotel



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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Leadership . . .

From page B16

and concepts, but also the need to unlearn things that are no longer relevant to the organization. The crucial point to understand here is that the leader must be able to evolve culture by building on its strengths and letting its weaknesses degenerate over time.

The article is based in part on material drawn from Organizational Culture and Leadership by Edgar Schein, a professor of management at the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *(The Asian Institute of Management (AIM), the Master in Development Management (MDM) Batch 2003 will hold a two-day national conference on development management on March 3-4, at the AIM Conference Center along Paseo de Roxas Street in Makati City. For inquiries, call Des Co at AIM Alumni Relations at 892-4011 loc. 540 or the MDM Office at loc. 134/ 293.)*

Pinay . . .

From page B16

She said she had intervened in all these cases by referring them to the Manila Economic and Cultural Office.

"I could only give them moral support. I did my best to help our fellow Filipinos since I settled here," Lin says, holding back the tears for those she helped surmount difficult circumstances while working away from home.

What are her secrets in the trade? Hard work and the Filipino time-tested value of "*pakikipag-kapwa tao*" are her answers.

"I help our *kababayan* without expecting anything in return. The relationship is much less on the material side. I get financial benefits from my enterprise but I don't shut my eyes from the needs of my fellow Filipinos," she says.

Her husband's support and understanding, according to Lin, has also helped her make the business thrive.

Another endeavor—counseling OFWs—is a priority. Lin finds time to help at the Pastoral Center for Filipino Migrant Workers.

For Lin, the reason for business is not only about making money. "It is also about helping other people, especially our *kababayan*. It's difficult to be away from your families and your country," she says.

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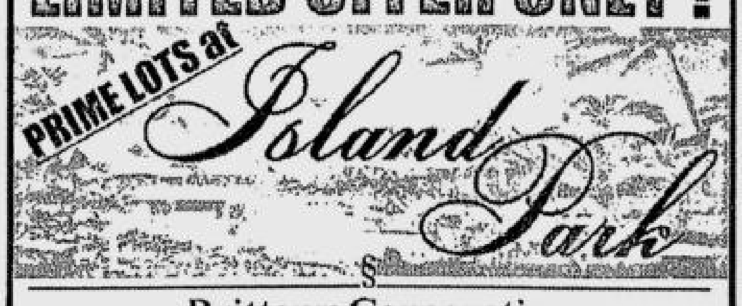

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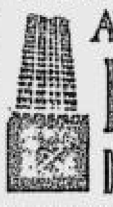

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Townhomes, 2 or 3BR, 2T&B, near TownProper, with amenities•PROMO 10%DP SEE UNITS to APPRECIATE! Call LYN (02)728-8049

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SERVICED VACATION RESIDENCES
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James 635-0128
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633-6187 633-6191

VARIED AREAS

Anchor Bay,Roxas Boulevard Natural Sea Breeze Dramatic Sunset Site: "FUTURE MALL OF ASIA" 54.5 sqm with free 1 parking P4.3M 1BR 20%DP Ok 2 Movein California Gardens Square 2BR near Rustan Shangrila Only P25,000 reservation No Down P2.1M P17K M/A 8-903-903/ 0917-8-903-903

LOT

D.TUAZON 411m² 7342503/04

ALABANG

Rush Sale Alabang Hills 770-4656/0916-5558120 Isa

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m² P3,703/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

MAKATI

M.Unidos Mkt 180sqm 563-1498

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

PROJECT 2, QUEZON CITY
Corner Property
Facing basketball court, plaza; along jeepney route. With 2-storey townhouse (fa=150 sq m) for commercial and residential purposes, 1 parking slot
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LOT

MANILA

Nr Spana 142m² widefrntage morn sun no flood 3.4M 9218770

MUNTINLUPA

SOUTH GREENHTS VILL 330m² fenced P3,833/m² Vic Gigle 8903461 loc 25/27

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

QUEZON CITY

272 sqm. TBELLA TSORA cor COMMONWEALTH T-9313523

500sqm Fillnvest II 951-4536

Fairview Pearl St 1300M 8756749 • 8974641 Rush

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TIERRA PURA MIRA NILA 120m²-400m² & up 9314946

E. Rodriguez 808m² P22T/m² 09175271188 / 7153544

RIZAL

Antipolo 730m² 1.5M 7443465

Vista V. Antplo 373m² 9332616

OTHER AREAS

2Dr 80m² P3M 631-7179

AMPARO SUBD. 610sqm 1.525M Contact Jo Santos 8723784 Cel# 09198130658

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M² P4,250/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Boracay lots 09166155828

BATANGAS

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

CAVITE

150m² METRO SOUTH CAVITE P2000/m² T3722540

LAGUNA

Los Banos 980sqm P2M term 0916-6991729

Paete 161370sqm P20/m² 3springs 0916-6991729

PROVINCIAL

TAGAYTAY COUNTRY HOMES 180m² P3,500/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

BUSINESS SPACE

700m² Res or Industry W. Capitol 0917-4149898

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

BUSINESS SPACE

FOR SALE
DENTAL CLINIC w/res near Makati City Hall 250T neg. Call 8706378 • 0920 749 3510

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P250/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P186/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

MKTI LOT P 21K 5508606

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

LAGUNA

25T/mo. 4br 3tb Grge Gud for Off. or Residence 0919-2653256

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

EVACOM 2RM 5416226 DHEL

PASIG

Greenwoods Nice 4BR CGrge 35T Neg. Pref. Expat 0916-6130893 0916-6995277

Kapitolyo 1br 1tb 6314958

QUEZON CITY

Scout Area, 35T New 4BR 2PK nr Timog/MRT 4578041

RIZAL

2Sty 3br 3tb Vis-Verde Cainta 2487254 • 6560815

CONDO/TWNHSE

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Mkt 2BR 13T tel/prkg 8906331

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RUSH RENT NR. ROBINSON FURN. STUD T0917-9160226

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APARTMENT

MAKATI

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2BR 2TB 899-2148•5227127

MANILA

Apt 7841746/6682108

MANDALUYONG

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QUEZON CITY

15T 2br 2tb w/grge 7160997

Cubao 2stry 2BR 1T&B P6.5T 439-8519 Marivic

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

ROOM & BOARD

Kamias 3.5T Nice New 4267157

Ldy Mkt 8950134 / 8907136

New Ladies Dorm U-Belt Mla Accept Reviewees T-6810992

STUDIO LADY / LADIES
#6 ROAD 32 PROJ.6 QC

Twin/Triple Sharing w/ A/C TB nr DLSU, ST.SCHO, PWU 523-5465

BEDSPACE

BACOOD STA MESA 7168145

DORM IN A CONDO-4K
BURGUNDY WESTBAY TWR
V.CRUZ NR LASALLE/ST.SCHO
ALSO AVAIL. 4 RENT:
1,2,3 BR/COML UNITS
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0917-8370184

nr Ayala 6709544 09192341303

RM/Bedspace 899-2148•5227127

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'99 TERRANO 73Tkms P480T 0918-9024815

OPEL

ASTRA WGN MT DRK GRN LOW MLG MINT 0918-9053320

SUZUKI

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Land Cruiser Pajero Surf Hi-Town Hi Ace Safari Trooper Mu Delica Ell Canter etc A1 warranty trade in ok 9120647 / 09178342020 Glen

PREGIO 97m matic alpower
94 95m FX gas diesel gl
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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL B. OFRASIO has been settled by his heirs per Doc#12 Page #04 Bk#LXIII series of 2003 before Notray Public ATTY. DONARDO PAGLINAWAN PTR#7631740 Makati
(PDI-Feb 9, 16, 23, 2003)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CIRIACO A. URSAIS HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED PURSUANT TO AN EXTRAJUDICIAL DEED OF SETTLEMENT DULY NOTARIZED BEFORE ATTY. MAILA TAGAY REYES AS PER DOC. 545; PAGE NO. 109; BOOK II; SERIES 2003; NOTARY PUBLIC OF MANILA
PDI-February 9, 16 & 23, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late TIBURCIO A. MANLANGIT III wsa extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc # 453; Page # 91; Book # CVII Series of 2003 by Notary Public Atty Danilo O. Leyble of Antipolo City.
PDI - Feb. 9, 16 & 23, 2003

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of Loss Global Bank stock certs. 11644-100shs; 12228-14shs; 13115-32shs; 13842-1shs; 19658-52shs; 21006-98shs; 22813-40shs; 23492-2shs in the name of ISIDORO A. CANIZARES (PDI-Feb16,23&Mar 2,2003)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER

O immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence. In thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us than a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

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QUALIFICATIONS:

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- Solid years of experience, preferably with multi-national companies, dealing with fast moving consumer products distribution.
- Sound organizational leadership and management, core values, and have continuously exhibited strong initiatives with previous / other principals.
- Sufficient financial standing and willing to submit to financial competency and logistics/resource requirement capability verification by the company's business development group.

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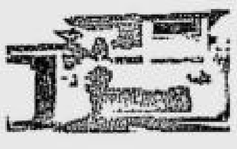

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HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & ACQUIRED ASSETS DISPOSITION GROUP

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) hereby invites offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the property described as follows:

PROJECT : **VILLA ANA MARIA SUBDIVISION**
LOCATION : RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL
DESCRIPTION : 1,417 DEVELOPED LOTS
TOTAL LOT AREA : 63,258 SQ.M.
BID PRICE : **P 158,145,000.00**

The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

Acceptance of Inquiries	**February 26 & 27, 2003**
Site Inspection	**February 28, 2003**
Bidding Proper	**March 10, 2003**

All sealed bids must be in the form of bulk and cash purchase.

A bidder's bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's check payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders.

The bidder is advised to inspect the properties subject of public bidding to see for himself their actual condition. All properties are being sold on "as-is" basis. Particulars may be obtained starting **February 26, 2003** from Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC), Project Management and Acquired Assets Disposition Group at the 2nd Floor, JADE Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City or call Marichu Lazaro at tel. nos. 897-32-90/897-32-17.

Sealed bids must be received on or before 10:00 A.M., **March 10, 2003**, HGC Lobby, Ground Floor, JADE Building, 335 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Project information and other documents shall be issued only upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,500.00.

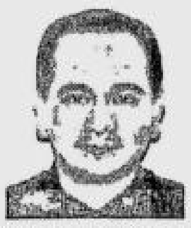
THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS; TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON N. ABANGAN**
Vice President
Project Management and Acquired
Assets Disposition Group

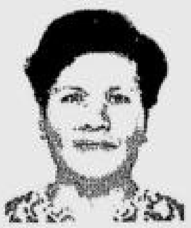
(PDI--Feb. 21, 22 & 23, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. SEVERINO C. ABAIGAR AND MS. ZENAIDA E. VALDEZ** whose photographs appear below, are no longer connected with **The Insular Life Assurance Company, Ltd.**, as of the date indicated under their names and any transactions they made for and in behalf of the Company on or after the said dates shall not be honored.



SEVERINO C. ABAIGAR
Blk. 4, cor. Lot 30
Atis Street, SM Homes
Novaliches, Coloocan City
09 December 2002



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(PDI – Feb. 23, 2003)

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in praying for the
eternal repose of his soul.

A big loss to overseas workers and their families.

Ma. Virginia "Gina" Alunan-Melgar

Gina died on February 21, 2003 from multiple organ failure due to cancer. She is remembered for her selfless dedication and commitment to the Filipino women migrant workers' sector. She will be remembered in their hearts and minds for touching their lives, having spent close to 25 long years with them.

From 1981 to 1986, she organized domestic helpers in Hongkong. She came back home to help set up various NGOs, including Kanlungan Center, ATIKHA Inc., and "BALIKBAYANI," which have built networks here and abroad, particularly in Hongkong and Italy. She also helped write books on the sector and on comfort women.

Her loving husband **Pedro Melgar** and family; mother **Epifania Makabenta-Alunan**; sisters, brothers and their spouses **Bebette, Mike & Angeline, Mario & Juliet, Menchie & Joel, Tracy & Boboy**, immediate nephews and nieces **Lendl, Nicole, Marti, Judd, Redd, Joshua, Aleezah, Marquita**, and **Reece**; and her relatives and friends mourn her death and request readers to pray for her and support her advocacy.

In lieu of flowers, send your support and donations to either ATIKHA Inc. or BALIKBAYANI.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels at No. 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2003 following a memorial Mass at 10 a.m. at the Himlayan Memorial Park in Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

"I am just - let me see your face when I awake,
let me be filled with your presence..." — **Psalm 17:15**

Ma. Elena "Lynn" Aragon Rayala

Now peacefully rests in the infinite grace and goodness of the Lord
on the 20th of February 2003 at the age of 50.

Her loving husband **Jaime Q. Rayala**; daughters **Lizette, Loujean**; son **Jimbo** and wife **Jenny**; grandson **Miggy**; mother **Pat**; brother **Ariel**; sisters **Mindy, Mary Ann** and **Mary Lou**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Park, Araneta Ave., Q.C. There will be a Mass at 1p.m. at the Arlington Chapel after which her remains will be cremated at Funeraria Paz at 3 p.m. on February 25, 2003. On February 26, 2003, a 7:00 a.m. Mass would be held at St. Peters Church, Commonwealth Ave., Q.C. where her remains will finally rest in God's peace.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

Fiscal MANUEL O. OCAMPO

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 21, 2003
at the age of 64.

His bereaved wife **Evelyn**; children **Besilda, Alexis** (†), **Carina, Fides, Emy & Nathaniel**; sons-in-law **Simon, Jose Mari, Jun & Choy**; & daughter-in-law **Olga**; other relatives & friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Narra Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park). Interment will be on Thursday, February 27, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City at 3:00 p.m.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For You are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." **Psalm 23:4**

Caridad Rodenas Velasquez

"I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone,
O Lord, make me dwell in safety."
Psalm 4:8

March 30, 1911 – February 21, 2003
St. Rita Mortuary Chapel
Philamlife Homes, Quezon City

Cremation will be on February 25, 2003.

BENITO UY FERNANDEZ

"Benny of Good Morning Trading"
Cauayan, Isabela & Valenzuela City

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
and joined his beloved wife ***"Lily"***
on February 20, 2003 at the age of 67.

His presently loving wife **TERRY**: children **LILIBETH & POO, HENRY & NITA, RENE, IMEE & PAUL**: grandchildren, brothers and sisters: nephews and nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 27, 2003 at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his Saints."

VICENTE "DO" O. ALOVERA, SR.

November 28, 1931 - February 21, 2003

His wife **Lulu**; children **Jojo, Lovely & Ian**; grandchildren **Mylo, Vincent, Venice, Jom, Nikki & Mavince**; in-laws **Belen Ehri, Boy Abante**; brothers and sisters **Patria Alovera & family, Atty. & Mrs. Marcos Alovera, Jr., Ret. Judge & Mrs. Jose Alovera, Mr. & Mrs. Angelito Simba, Dr. Mariano Alovera & family** request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at the Fr. Willmann SJ Suite, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Ave., Parañaque City.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City. Schedule of interment will be announced later.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

Our Beloved

ANDRES SILVA MALLILLIN

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 21, 2003
at the age of 94.

His wife **Nety**; children **Gil & Ching, Andres Jr.** (†), **Manuelita** (†), **Fil & Judy, Bessie & Armand, Bonifacio** (†) & **Est, Hessie & Edna, Jojo & Menchie**; living sister and brother **Remedios**, and **Leopoldo & Mary**; living sisters-in-law **Anna T. Mallillin** and **Odie P. Mallillin**; grandchildren; great-grandchild; nephews and nieces, relatives request for your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in No. 69 Taft St., Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 27, 2003.

SOLEDAD CASTRO ROQUE

of Malolos, Bulacan and Iligan City, Lanao del Norte

was called home to be with the Lord
on February 20, 2003 at the age of 98.

Her late husband **Esmeraldo Sr.** (†);
loving children **Esmeraldo Jr.** and **Lourdes, Juanito** and **Ellen, Luzminda** (†) and **Leoresito,**
and **Dulcesima**; grandchildren and
great grandchildren, relatives and friends request
the pious reader to pray for her eternal rest.

Her body lies in state at #47 Laya Avenue Ext.,
San Miguel Village, Pala-o, Iligan City.
Interment will be on Saturday, March 1st
at the St. Michael's Memorial Park
after the 9 o'clock Holy Mass
at the St. Michael's Cathedral.

Justice Crisolito S. Pascual

Justice of the Court of Appeals

Peacefully joined his Creator
at the age of 86.

Loving husband
to **Dr. Eliza Alejandro Pascual**
and brother to **Vergel** (†), **Rexy,**
Lody, Dorcy (†), **Nezer, Velcy,**
Demir (†), and **Lucir.**

His remains lie in state
at the United Methodist Church
of Tañgos, Navotas (Naval Street).

Nightly services will be held
at the church at 7:30 p.m.

Interment will take place
at the Navotas Municipal Cemetery
on February 26, 2003,
Wednesday at 2 p.m.

"For my integrity
you have
supported me
and let me stand
in your presence
forever."
Psalm 41:13

PAQUITA ESTRELLA-PUNSALAN

Peacefully joined her Creator
on February 21, 2003 at the age of 70.

Her loving husband **Ahmed**; children: **Noel & Diana Garobo, Ace, Nica, Luchi, Rizza, Teena**; brothers and sisters: **Corazon, Ine & Teddy Briones** (†), **Miren, Felipe, Jr. & Cora dela Cruz, Liit** (†), **Lolita & Oscar Villaseñor, Jose** (†), **Manuel & Marivic Padilla** (†), relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at Melencio St., Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 25, 2003 at the Cabanatuan City Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Nicholas of Tolentine Cathedral.

NENA CORONADO RIGOR

of Marikina City and Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Joined her Creator and beloved
husband Col. Saturnino P. Rigor, PA (Ret.)
on February 20, 2003 at the age of 91.

She is survived by her bereaved children **Lydia & Lewin Barringer, Susan Rigor-Willett, Rita & Bill Matory, Doris & Tim Williams, Elena & Keith Hubbard, Jose & Vickie Rigor, Marie & Pete Fernandes**; grandchildren **Helena, Lewin, Elizabeth & Zoe, Edward, Billy, Elizabeth, Stephanie, Natasha, Tabatha & Vincent**; and other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Park, Chapel # 3, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 26, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

LEONOR CARANDANG PALACIO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on 20 January 2003
at the age of 53.

We sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil, attended funeral rites and days of prayer and who, in countless and immeasurable ways, condoled and comforted us in our moment of grief.

We thank you.

Rafael "Pancho" Palacio; children **Yummy** and **Charlie, Rip**; grandchildren, **Charles** and **Zoey.**

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
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13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
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No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City; Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
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187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
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865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City;
Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
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Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
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145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite; Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila; Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppe Complex
Quezon Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Paranaque City; Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291

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Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila; Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
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143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
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Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque; Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635
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LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal; Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
Tels. 283-1613; 273-8922
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Arellano St., Dagupan City; Tels. (075) 515-5960; 522-8783; (0917) 520-5001
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City; Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782; 697-0026; 650-7426; Fax : 697-2764
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tel. Nos. 254-0867, 254-0639
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
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1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

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On **February 24 and 25, 2003**, the INQUIRER's **JOB MARKET** will host "**JOBZ Resumé Central**" at OnStage, Greenbelt.

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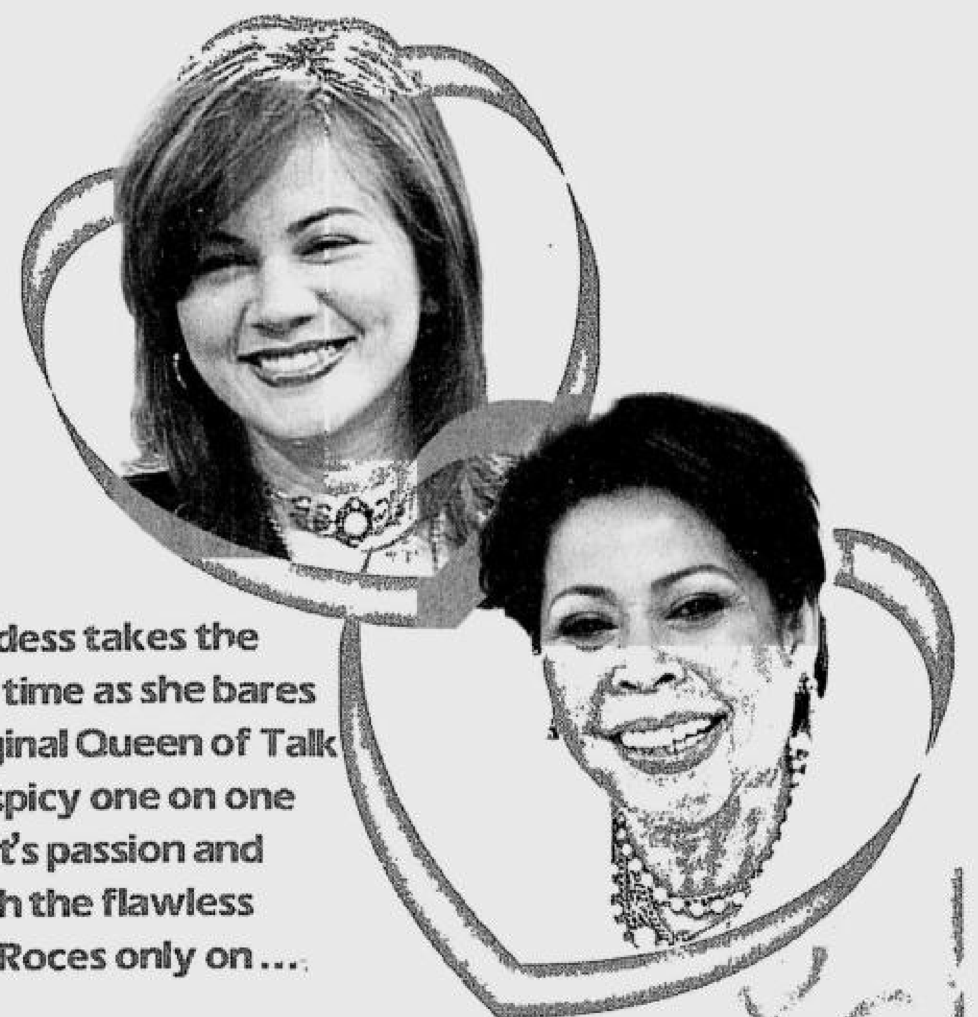

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INVITATION TO BID

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be holding a competitive bidding among all interested foreign rice suppliers and rice suppliers with foreign principals for the supply of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND (400,000) metric tons, 10% MOLSO, Long Grain White Rice with an appropriated budget of US Dollars 96.8M, 5% brokens (Well-Milled), 15% brokens (Well-Milled) and 25% brokens (Reasonably Well Milled), of Vietnam, China and Thailand origin only packed in 50 kg net capacity, polypropylene bag.

All interested rice suppliers are required to submit price offers in US PMT, CFR, FO, Cash L/C basis, 1 safe port, 1-2 safe berths, for all the specifications above-mentioned with arrival periods as follows. Otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive.

ARRIVAL PERIOD	VOLUME TO BE OFFERED (MT) % OF MAX. VOL. TO BE AWARDED
APRIL 2003	AT LEAST 25%
MAY 2003	AT LEAST 50%
JUNE 2003	BALANCE

Volume to be awarded per supplier per month of arrival shall be at BUYER's option but in no case shall aggregate volume of award exceed 300,000 MT for government suppliers with track record of supplying rice to the NFA within the last two years (2001 and 2002) and 20,000 MT for suppliers with no track record with the NFA within the last two years (2001 and 2002).

Vessels to be utilized should have a maximum load capacity of 15,000 MT.

Bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 30% of the value of the offered quantity in the form of Cashier's/Manager's Check issued by a reputable bank located in Metro Manila or stand-by irrevocable L/C callable on demand.

Winning bidders are required to submit a performance bond equivalent to 30% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the Notice of Award in the form of Cashier's/Manager's Check issued by a reputable bank located in Metro Manila or stand-by irrevocable L/C callable on demand. Bid bond can be converted to Performance Bond.

All government suppliers who have supplied rice to NFA for the last two (2) years are not required to post bid/performance bond.

Certificate of registration issued by the Bid and Awards Committee's (BAC) is required from all prospective bidders. List of registration and eligibility requirements maybe secured with the BAC – Secretariat, 5th Flr., Matimyas Bldg., National Food Authority, Quezon City starting February 17, 2003. Schedule of pre-bidding and bidding conferences shall be on March 03, and 12, 2003, 2:00 PM, respectively at the NFA Penthouse Canteen. Opening of bids will start exactly at 2:00 PM

Terms of Reference and bid documents will be available starting February 17, 2003 after payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 5,000.00.

Countertrade shall be a mandatory component of the bidding. Failure by the offeror during the bidding to submit the duly accomplished Countertrade Undertaking and Countertrade Program Proposal shall entitle NFA to reject the offerors' bid for rice supply without liability on the part of NFA.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formalities or defects found therein and may accept bid/s most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP**
Administrator, NFA

(PDI – Feb. 16 & 23, 2003)

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IN-HOUSE BIDDING COMMITTEE (IHBC)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Cabanatuan Branch Office invites all qualified and eligible security agencies to join its public bidding on March 14, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. for thirty-four (34) security guards to provide security services to the following subdivisions, to wit:

Name of Subdivision	Address	No. of Guards
1. Univille Subdivision	Bangad, Cabanatuan City	9
2. Science Ville Subd.	Brgy. Magtanggol, Munoz, Nueva Ecija	9
3. AGL Heights Subd.	Caalibangbangan, Cabanatuan City	6
4. Villa Emilia Subd.	Brgy. Kalikid Sur, Cabanatuan City	10

All interested bidders are required to submit their pre-qualification documents not later than **February 28, 2003**, which are as follows:

1. Certificate of Business Registration & Business Permit
2. Financial Statement/Income Tax Return (Latest)
3. PADPAO Membership Certificate & Agreement
4. SSS & Philhealth Remittances
5. Other Accreditation Papers

A pre-bidding conference shall be held on **March 7, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the Office of the Assistant Branch Manager, GSIS, Cabanatuan City. Prospective bidders who fail to submit their pre-qualification documents before the deadline or those who fail to meet the System's qualification requirements shall be rejected and disqualified to join the public bidding. Bid documents shall be issued to all qualified prospective bidders.

The GSIS reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the System.

(Sgd.) **FE S. PINEDA**
Chairperson, IHBC

(PDI--Feb. 16, 23 & Mar. 2, 2003)

PNOC
The Energy Company

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING/CONSULTATION

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Energy will conduct a public hearing/consultation on the draft Implementing Rules and Regulations for the guidelines on the implementation of the Executive Order No. 232 (EO 232) on February 28, 2003, 9:00 A.M. at the Board Room, 5th Floor, Building 6, Philippine National Oil Company, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Interested parties will be given opportunity to be heard and to present evidence in support of their positions. For particulars, please inquire at the office of Director Teresita M. Borra of Energy Utilization Management Bureau, Department of Energy, Tel. Nos. 840-1401 locals 245, 291, 290 and 337.

(Sgd.) **BEN-HUR C. SALCEDO**
Undersecretary

(PDI – Feb. 23, 2003)

BAYAN TEL
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that booklet of official receipt of Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (BayanTel Inc.) with the following series numbers was lost last January 2003.

Series Numbers
292101 G to 292150 G

VINCENT M. RAMIREZ whose photograph appears above and/or **MTVHR Management Consultancy** are no longer connected with BayanTel Inc., and are no longer authorized to receive payments or enter into any transactions for and in behalf of BayanTel Inc.

Any transactions purporting to be covered by the aforementioned official receipts or enter into by MTVHR Management Consultancy and/or Vincent Ramirez shall not be honored by the company

(PDI – Feb. 23, 2003)

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  - Epidemiology
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  - Medical Microbiology
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  - Child Health
  - Family Medicine
  - Medical Oncology
  - Obstetrics-Gynecology
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- Epidemiology
  - Public Health
  - Clinical Epidemiology
- Hospital Pharmacy
- Industrial Pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Pharmacy
- Physiology
- Public Health
  - Biostatistics
  - Environmental Health
  - Medical Microbiology
  - Medical Parasitology
  - Nutrition

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  - Adult Health Nursing
  - Community Health Nursing
  - Maternal-Child Nursing
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- Orthopaedics
- Public Health
  - Biostatistics
  - Dental Public Health
  - Environmental Health
  - Epidemiology
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CERTIFICATE/BASIC COURSE PROGRAMS

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DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

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Applicants must have good scholastic records from any recognized institution of higher learning, at least 1 year working experience in the related field, and duly accomplish the application form together with the following: original copy of TOR, 2 letters of reference (forms provided), receipt of payment, certified true copy of diploma, birth certificate, marriage certificate, and 4 passport size photos. Deadline for application is on April 4, 2003. For flyers, forms and other details, please contact us at 523-1495/98 We are located at the 3/F Old NEDA Bldg., Faura cor. Ma. Orosa, Ermita, Manila (in front of Robinson's Place Manila).

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1. The estimated budgetary cost of the contract is P1.5 Million (inclusive of optional services like gym design) sourced from corporate funds which contract shall have a duration of about eleven (11) months;
2. All interested bidders may obtain the proforma eligibility forms from the Ad Hoc Group Office at the 24th Floor, Landbank Headquarters Building, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P500.00;
3. Duly accomplished eligibility forms shall be submitted to and received by the Ad Hoc Group, c/o Mr. Robert V. Hibaya, at the above-stated address not later than 5:00 p.m. of 17 March 2003 after which time no documents will be accepted;
4. The eligibility requirements submitted shall be evaluated against a checklist, using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria, and thereafter the bidder shall be determined as eligible for short-listing;
5. The main criteria for short listing are applicable experience and qualification of bidders;
6. Notices of eligibility/ineligibility to bid shall be issued in writing;
7. Those notified as eligible may secure bid documents on a date to be specified later upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 and thereafter, a pre-bid conference will be held, and
8. Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" & "B"). Envelope A, containing the technical component and envelope B, containing the financial component, shall be submitted to and received by the Ad Hoc Group not later than 10:00 a.m. on a bidding date to be announced later.

LBP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ
CHAIRMAN,
SUB-COMMITTEE FOR LBP HQ BLDG. PROJECT

(PDI – Feb. 23 & March 2, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

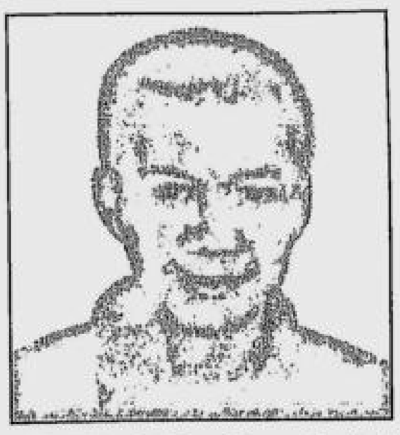
CONTRARY TO SOME MISLEADING ANNOUNCEMENTS, THE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT DATED NOVEMBER 14, 1995 BETWEEN DEVELOPER **MARCBILT REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MRDC)** AND **RHODORA MOJICA,** OWNER OF THE 50,000 SQUARE METER LAND AT THE SO-CALLED ST. JULIANNE HOMES, MUNTING MAPINO, NAIC, CAVITE, HAS NOT BEEN RESCINDED. A SUIT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTION, IN FACT, HAD BEEN FILED BY MRDC AGAINST RHODORA MOJICA AND THE LGTM CORPORATION INVOKING SAID JOINT VENTURE CONTRACT UNDER CIVIL CASE NO. 68639 PENDING BEFORE THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT (RTC) OF PASIG CITY. ANY PERSON BUYING/DEALING WITH LGTM AND/OR MOJICA IN RELATION TO SAID PROPERTY IN DISPUTE DOES SO SUBJECT TO THE FINAL OUTCOME OF SAID CIVIL CASE NO. 68639.

AND WHILE IT MAY BE TRUE THAT THE FORCIBLE ENTRY CASE FILED BY MRDC AGAINST MOJICA AND LGTM WAS DISMISSED BY THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT OF NAIC, CAVITE, SAID DISMISSAL HOWEVER IS NOT YET FINAL AND WAS DULY APPEALED BY MRDC TO THE RTC OF NAIC, CAVITE WHERE IT SHALL BE REVIEWED.

MRDC WILL NEVER SURRENDER THE TITLES TO SAID PROPERTIES TO MOJICA AND LGTM AS MRDC REMAINS THE SOLE LEGAL DEVELOPER OF THE PROPERTY.

RICARDO J.M. RIVERA LAW OFFICE
Counsel for MRDC
Unit 2001 Jollibee Plaza Condominium
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 6375939/6375940

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



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Warrant of Arrest was issued by the Regional Trial Court of Pasig Branch 151.

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(PDI–Feb. 23, 2003)

Leadership depends on situation and task

Henry S. Tenedero
Contributor

LEADERS have been studied throughout history and social psychology, has for a long time made leadership a topic of research. One of the pervading findings of sociologists, historians and social psychologists is that what leadership should be depends largely on the specific situation, the task to be performed, and the characteristics of the leader's followers.

A main reason why so many different theories on leadership exist is that different researchers focus on different elements. Despite this, we tend to treat leadership in a vacuum instead of specifying what the leader's relationship to the organization is at any given time.

While the nature of organizations will without doubt change in the future, as we already see it happening today, the challenges of creating, building, maintaining, and changing organizations to new forms will basically remain the same.

Leader as animator

A unique leadership function is to provide the energy required to get the organization off the ground. A lot has been said about the vision of entrepreneurs, but not enough is stated about the enormous energy they display as they try to create innovative approaches one after the other, facing repeated failures, in their efforts to sustain their enterprise. It is a kind of energy that motivates the entrepreneur and creates excitement in others.

The moment an organization sustains itself, the leader's beliefs, values and basic assumptions are transferred to the mental behavior of its members. The leader's personality becomes embedded in the entire culture of the organization. It imbibes the subordinates' to its way of thinking and feeling.

Changing: Leader as change agent

As the rate of change in the technological, economic, political and socio-cultural environment increases, the very strengths that were institutionalized can become liabilities. At this stage, there is a need for leaders to think as change agents, because the concern is no longer confined to learning new skills

LEADERSHIP/ B8

GIVES FREE ADVICE, TOO

Pinay in Taiwan sells more than chicharon and adobo

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

TAICHUNG CITY, Taiwan—In this city where some 30,000 Filipinos work, many of them have found a favorite hangout in "Malinamnam" the last 10 years.

The three-story restaurant, with the "Lutong Pinoy" gastronomic guarantee beaming from its apple green signboard, is especially packed on weekends when overseas Filipino workers take their days off.

On Sundays, Malinamnam is full when Filipinos treat themselves to Pinoy cuisine after attending Mass at the Catholic cathedral on busy Fushing Road, just across the restaurant.

But on whatever day, it is Cecilia Mahia-Lin, Malinamnam's owner, who takes care of the counter and scoops rice and viand out of large steaming cauldrons for her *kababayan.*

And Lin, like her staff of 10 workers, serves with a smile.

Lin says her restaurant pioneered in serving Filipino meals in this central Taiwan city.

The Filipino community, on the other hand, refers to her as one of the "originals," a term for those among the very few during the 1980s who migrated to this Chinese territory to try their luck.

But Malinamnam is not only about Filipino dishes and catering for special occasions.

Lin, a Kapampangan from Guagua, Pampanga, also sells just about anything Pinoy—from magazines, newspapers, pocketbooks, groceries, tuyo (dried fish), *itlog na pula* (salted eggs), *bagoong* (fish paste) to chicharon (cracklings).

She also provides money remittance and sea cargo services.

She operates a karaoke bar and a beauty parlor at the upper floors of her building. There, dozens of Filipino workers scurry for seats, whiling their time away by singing, getting haircut or nail care or just chatting to cure homesickness.

Lin, 48, established the business in 1992, five years after she and her Taiwanese husband Lin Cheng-Bin settled here in 1987.

That year, they finished an eight-year contract at the King Fahad Hofuf General Hospital in Saudi Arabia where they both worked as medical technologists. Their romance blossomed there, eventually concluding in a cross-cultural marriage.

It was not out of domestic boredom from raising three children but out of her want to carve a career of her own that she started the business, Lin said.

As Cheng-Bin went off to work as a sanitary inspector at the Ministry of Health, Lin began what others had not yet ventured on: catering to the needs of the growing number of Filipinos.

Her initial investments were the 500,000 Taiwan dollars (P775,000) she drew from their savings, and her confidence for her cooking skills. She says her roots in a province where culinary talents are considered "superb" encouraged her to begin the enterprise.

Malinamnam began as 90-square-meter, one-room affair along Taichung Road. By 1993, when more Filipinos began to arrive in big batches to work in Taiwan's garments and electronics factories, Lin moved to a 200-square-meter, four-story building on Fushing Road.

By 1995, when the number of Filipino workers grew and 10,000 more Filipinos were hired for an oil project in Mai Lao, she started the money remittance and sea cargo services.

Over the last four years though, she says employed Filipinos in Taiwan have declined as companies continued to move their production centers to China where labor costs were cheaper.

Feeling the pinch but wanting to remain in business, Lin says she also scaled down her operations, preferring to move to a smaller three-story shop from where she operates 12 hours daily.

Although customers are fewer compared with the 1993-1997 peak, she says her place is still busy as ever, mostly filled with nurses, caregivers and domestic helpers.

Malinamnam, Lin adds, continues to be a regular haven of Pinoys because it "gives the warmth of home."

It has also, Lin notes, become a "refuge."

"Naging takbuhan na rin ang lugar ko ng mga kababayan nating may problema (Distressed Filipinos seek refuge in my establishment)," she adds.

She says she has lost track of the number of troubled Filipinos who come to her seeking help about employers who do not follow the terms of contracts.

Those who work in Taiwan without the proper documents send their surrender feelers through her, she says.

PINAY/ B8

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CECILIA Mahia-Lin with her Taiwanese husband in front of their restaurant.

PHOTO BY TONETTE OREJAS

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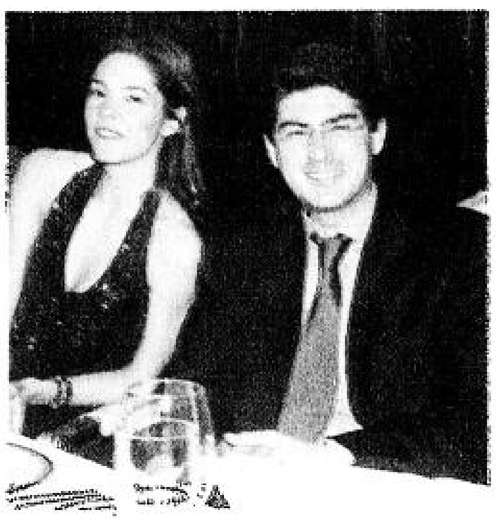
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

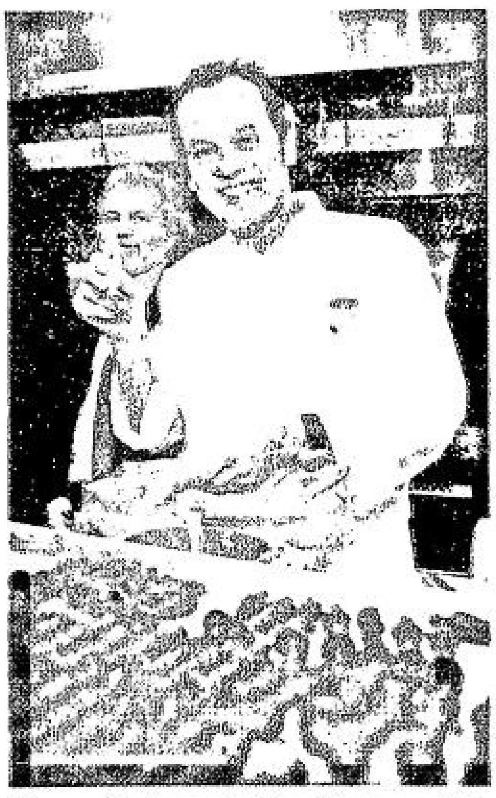
IN THIS ISSUE:

Goodbye, dunces; welcome, geniuses C2

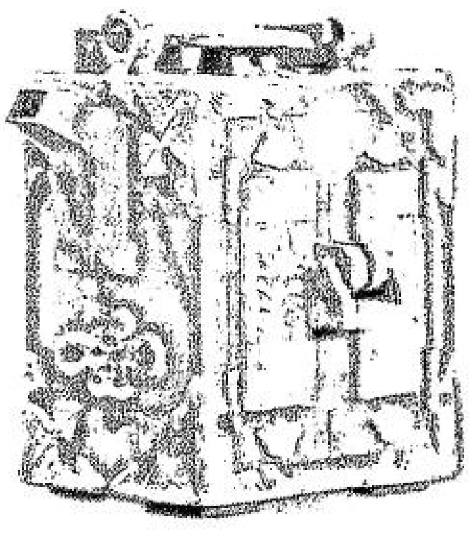


Make love (and wear Cartier), not war F1

Pretty girls in paradise F2



Fine dining at the Oscars D1



Tempest in a teapot E2

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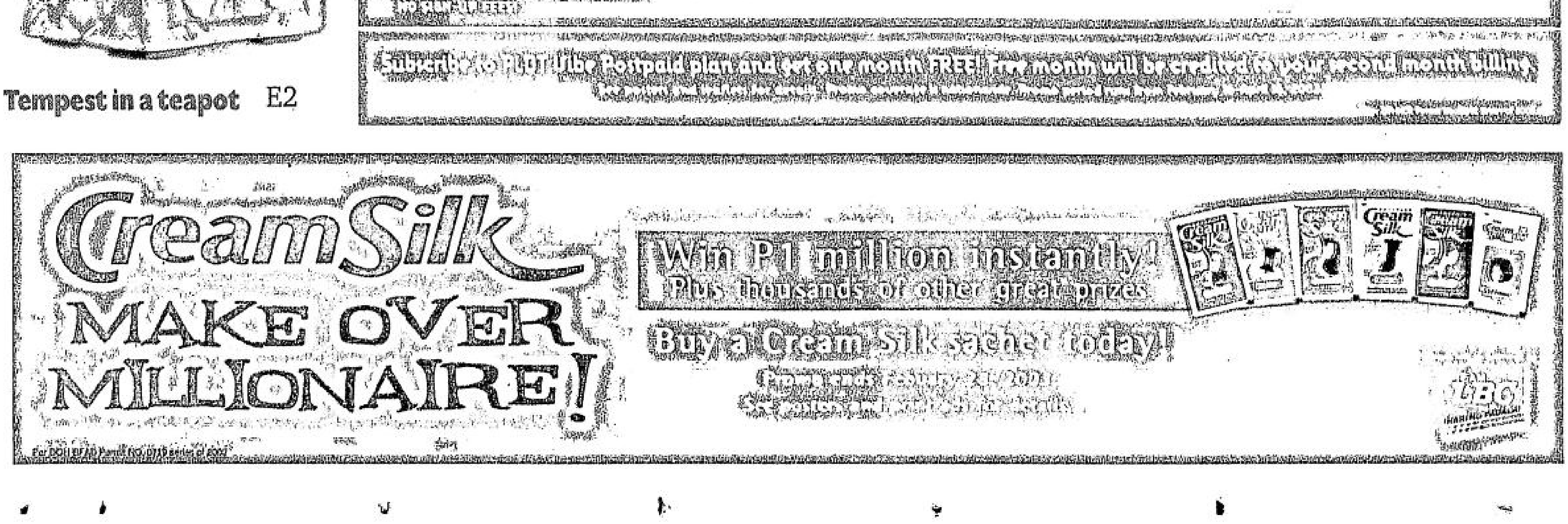

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Goodbye, dunces; welcome, geniuses

The HSBC-funded Creative Kids Center encourages children to take the adventure of the mind through the artistic media

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Mike Alquinto

GIVEN the chance, any child can become a great artist, a great actor or a great philosopher. All he needs is the right environment to become a creative wonder.

It was out of this belief that the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) gave an additional grant of P2.4 million to Esteban Abada Elementary School in Project 7, Quezon City to put up the Creative Kids Center.

Ideal for children, Creative Kids Center encourages elementary students to explore and express their own ideas through a wide range of artistic media.

The facility offers a unique studio environment where students can view exhibitions by fellow students, explore various disciplines in the performing arts, enjoy performances and attend workshops conducted by guest artists.

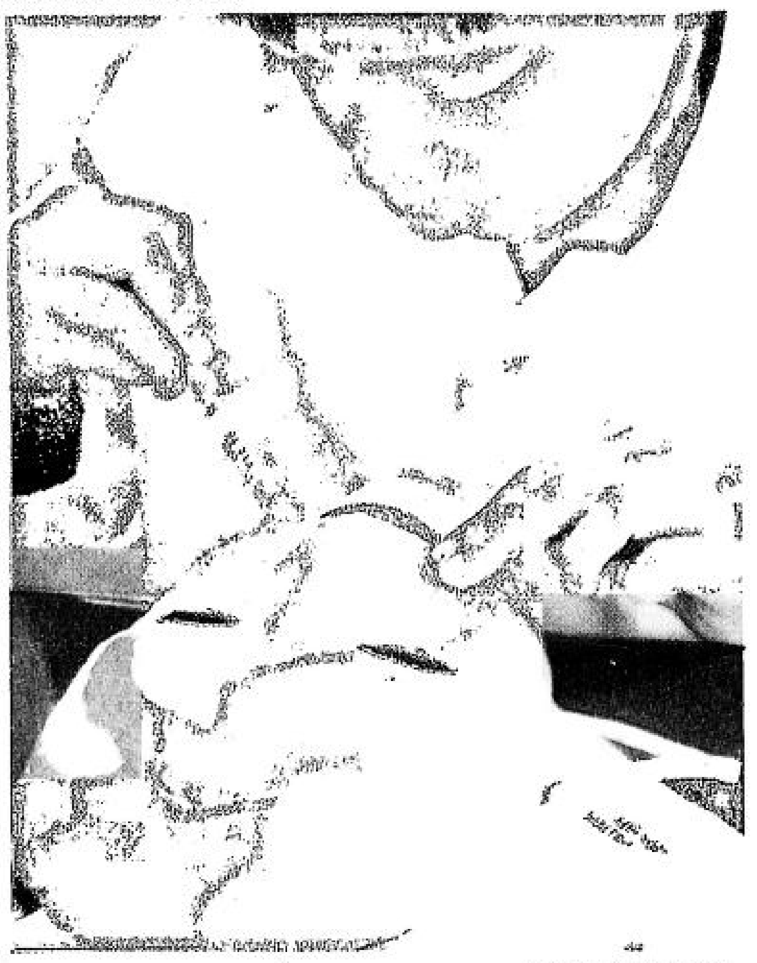
For two years now, Esteban Abada Elementary School has been assisted by HSBC and the US-based NGO Books for the Barrios under the model of excellence (MOE) school program. The school now houses computer facilities and one of the best children's libraries in Quezon City. Its students have figured well in academic and non-academic competitions. And the school now ranks 42 (up from 69 two years ago) out of 96 public schools in Metro Manila.

Recently, the Department of Education tapped the school to become one of 10 public elementary school libraries for computerization and sent its librarian Grace Albarida to Bangkok for training.

In recognition of the efforts of Esteban Abada's teachers and students, HSBC's head office in London, chaired by Sir John Bond, funded the Creative Kids Center.

"Believing that children are endowed with a wide range of potentials, just waiting to be discovered and nurtured, and that there are many interesting and effective ways to learn, a facility related to the arts was a natural choice," said Laine Santana, HSBC's assistant vice president for public affairs.

THE VISUAL arts room displays finished artworks of Grades 1-6 pupils.



A CHILD expresses himself through his artwork.

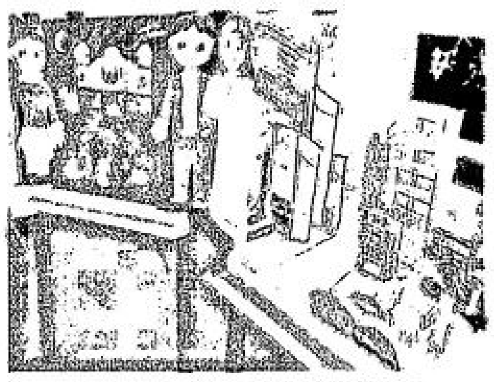
MASKS created by students are displayed at The Gallery.

Creative thinking

For Dionisia Cabrillas, principal of Esteban Abada Elementary School, the arts enable students to think creatively, solve challenging problems, and demonstrate what they know.

Because of the program, students get excited about learning and are more likely to be successful in school when they are actively involved in the arts.

"As a society, we value creativity because that's where new ideas come from," Cabrillas

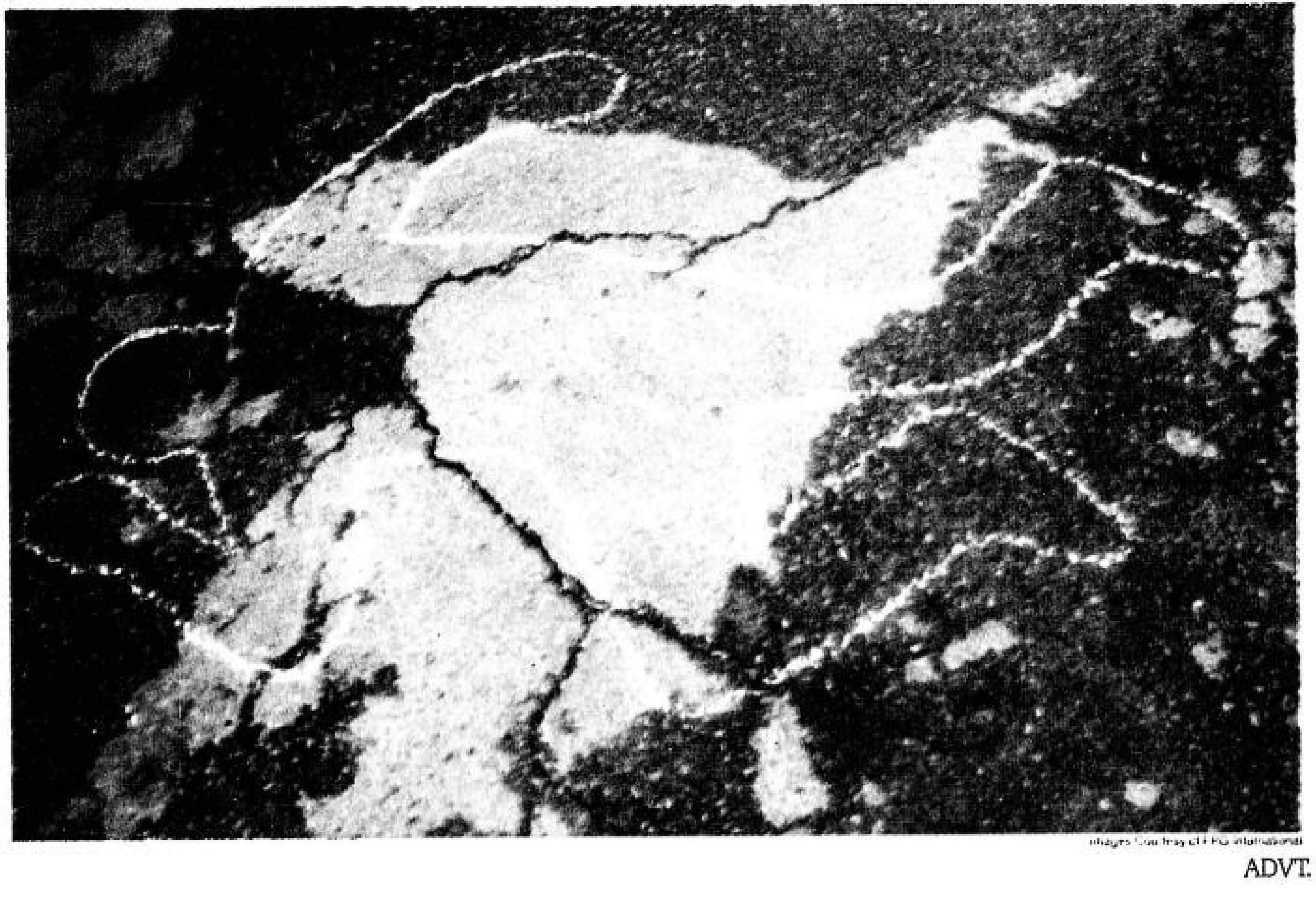


PAINTINGS of students are showcased at The Gallery.

GOODBYE/ C5

Special | Promotion

TEXT IS JUST THE HEX AGAINST CRIMINALS



Kidnappings, robberies, fraud… Items splashed all over the news all too often that we've almost grown indifferent and just numb ourselves to the gravity of it all. It's virtually impossible to go a day without hearing of a crime or misdemeanor committed somewhere in the country, sometimes in your very own neighborhood.

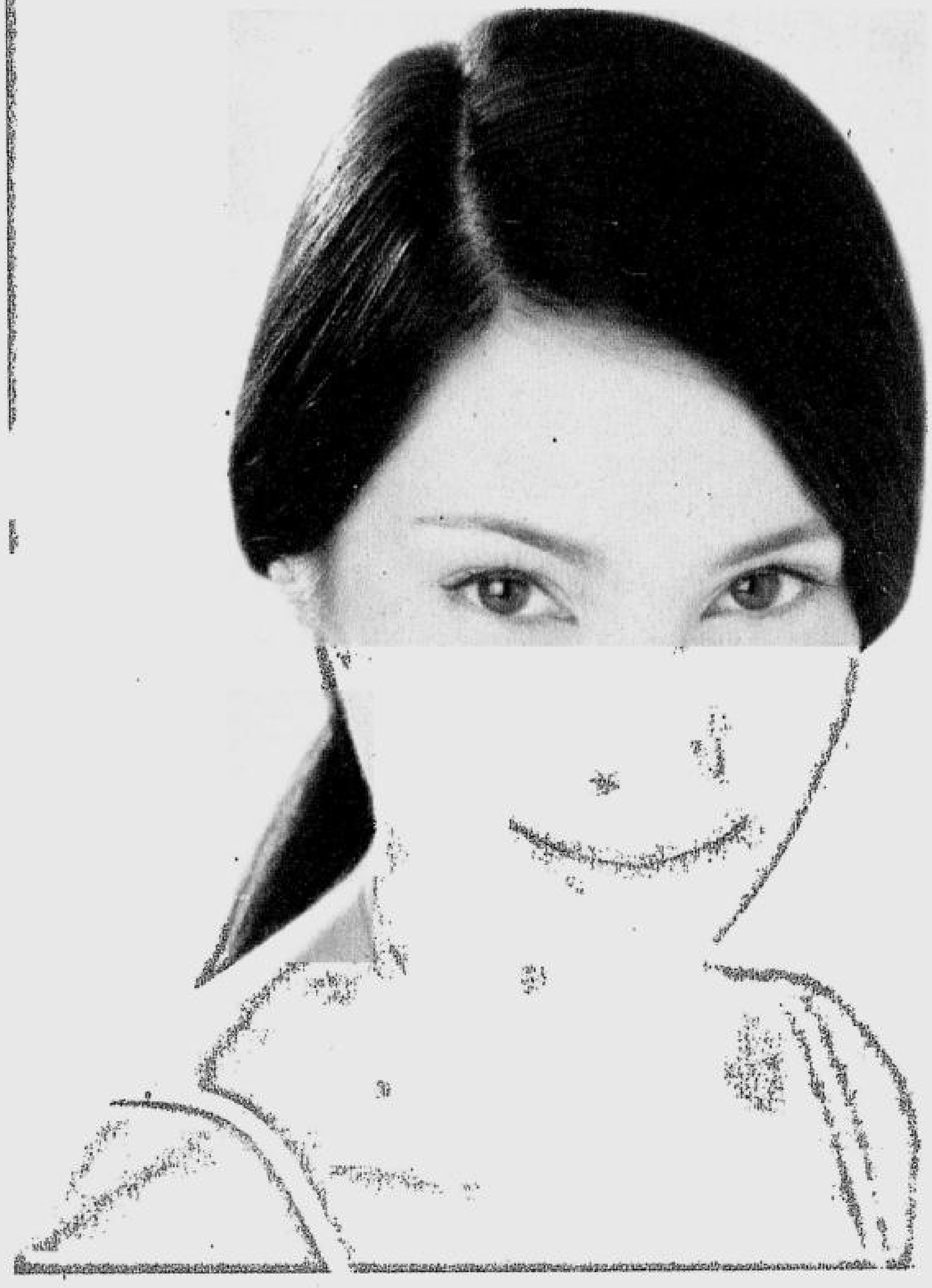
Meanwhile, the functions of text messaging are branching out big time. The texting phenomenon is spreading uncontrollably like ivy across our concrete jungle's walls, adding more color and vibrancy to the way we communicate. The Philippines is widely considered to be the texting capital of the world, and we're proud of it. And as we Pinoys have a knack for making the best of situations when left to our own devices, we have once again come up with a solution that teams our texting passion with a civic-oriented cause.

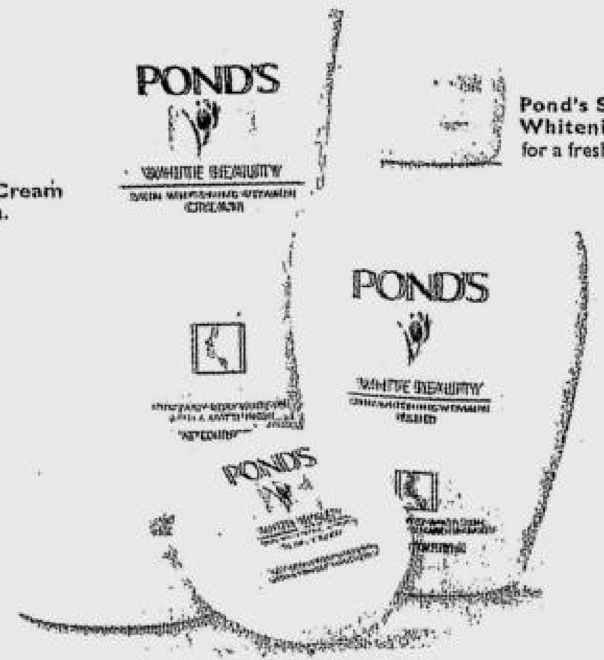
With Smart, text messaging has always fit our hand of social and business duties like a tailor-made glove. Now, it has evolved into an indispensable communication tool that can be extended to fit the long arm of the law—crimefighting. Just recently, it was reported in a major daily that a simple text message led to the rescue of a top insurance firm executive after his abduction less than 24 hours earlier. As policemen followed the lead, it resulted in the executive's life being spared, as it was revealed later on that his kidnappers had planned to execute him once the ransom was paid.

By texting in any info you might have on crime incidents, confidential information and police abuse or inaction to the Philippine National Police's TXT PNP 2920 program from your Smart celfone, you are in fact acting as a sort of anonymous vigilante by offering vital info that will be treated with the utmost urgency by the PNP. Just text in your reports by keying in <PNP> on your Smart celfone, followed by a space, then <your message> and send to 2920. All TXT PNP 2920 messages will be received and processed by the Complaints, Referral, Action, Investigation, and Verification Center (CRAIVC) in Camp Crame. Messages that require police action in the lower levels of command will be forwarded by the CRAIVC to the concerned PNP units and offices for immediate action. Message senders will be notified of what action has been taken about their complaint. This service aims to speed up the response of police to citizens' complaints, PNP officials were quoted as saying.

Smart, the leader in wireless telecom services in the country, not only leads the pack because of its widest coverage or extensive value added services, but also because it truly cares about the safety and well-being of all Filipinos. By creating enough awareness of TXT PNP 2920, Smart hopes that more and more of its just under 9 million subscribers will use this text-inspired service to make the country a safer place for millions of Filipinos.

ADVT.





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CHILDREN from the Haven serenade their guests.

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA AND MANDY NAVASERO

SPEAKER Joe de Venecia, Rep. Edmundo Reyes and Rep. Ruffy Biazon

ARCHITECT Gerry Contreras

Color them yellow, blue

From page A1

Haven for Children, Gina de Venecia's current pet project, seeks to shelter unfortunate kids from the chaos of the streets

Rightly so. The Marillac Hills, which is home to abused young girls, Tuloy sa Don Bosco, a shelter for streetchildren, and The Haven for Women, a home for abused women— make their home on what used to be a vast tract of empty land.

With the the exception of Tuloy, which is run by Salesian priest Father Rocky, the other homes are managed and cared for by social workers from the DSWD. The Haven for Women, which was opened in 1995, was a project of the CSFI spearheaded by Gina Perez de Venecia, wife of Speaker Joe de Venecia.

The Haven, a nine-building complex with 15 regional centers, has treated and integrated back to society more than 6,000 raped and abused women nationwide.

The Haven for Children, is the second major project of the CSFI. Its first phase is composed of an administration office, a livelihood center, guidance center and a therapeutic center.

The second phase, which the CSFI hopes to complete before the year ends, will be composed of a gym and four two-story residential cottage-buildings that can house 300 streetchildren.

"We do not want to call them street children. But they live on the streets," De Venecia explained. "Hundreds of thousands of these unfortunate young boys and girls have run away to escape the violence of their own families."

The Haven for Children, she said, is a dream of the CSFI, which slowly took shape over a period of 16 months.

"We are dangerous when we dream," she said in her message during the inauguration.

"More than a year ago, we were breaking ground, on this same spot. And here we are this morning, blessing the four buildings of The Haven for Children. It has not been easy," she said as she looked at the one-hectare property, which will eventually house all nine buildings when completed.

The entire complex was designed by architect Gerry Contreras, "who did it for love of country," De Venecia stressed. All buildings will be painted yellow and blue.

The Haven will serve as a temporary home for children who live among the rubble in the streets of Manila. Special attention will be given to drug-dependent minors who have been processed at a government facility and released in the custody of the DSWD.

Surrogate home

The Haven for Children hopes to create an atmosphere of home, complete with surrogate parents (and possibly grandparents) to give the children a sense of family.

FOR THE CHILDREN. President GMA with Gina de Venecia, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, former President Cory Aquino and Speaker Joe de Venecia

GINA'S INSPIRATION. Mommy Nene Vera Perez

"For many of them, it will be the very first time they will feel the love of a parent or a caregiver," Conchita Razon, a consultant to the project, explained. "The children will be rehabilitated and restored by psychologists, doctors and social workers who will address their specific physical and socio-emotional needs."

Livelihood and vocational skills training will be part of the Haven's program for the children.

De Venecia says the success of the CSFI projects is due to the partnership of the government and the private sector. The CSFI raised the funds to put up the buildings. The programs are run by the staff from the DSWD.

There are certainly great things that can be accomplished when the government and the private sector work hand-in-hand for a cause such as saving the children from rough and dangerous lives on the street. "We still have a long way and many needs before we can complete The Haven for Children," De Venecia told the audience that morning, which included President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and former President Cory Aquino.

Guests who came for the ribbon-cutting ceremonies were shown the "Wishing Wall," which listed the items needed to get The Haven ready for its young wards. Items such as television sets, refrigerators, dining chairs, freezers, cooking pots, air conditioning units, tables, desks, conference chairs beds, pillows were still being solicited from donors.

De Venecia appealed to the guests that morning. "The wishes are simple, basic necessities," she told them. "When you affix your name alongside a particular wish on that list, you affirm your decision to bring change into the lives of hundreds of children who have nothing. In making a wish come true, you invest in a child's future, giving him or her a better chance at life."

For contributions to The Haven for Children, please contact CSFI at 931-5670 or 931-5417.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

LANI Mercado, Marichu Vera Perez Maceda and Bong Revilla

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YAYING Dragon, Buching Bagatsing, Carolyn Masibay, Marita Licaros, Maricar Gonzales and Lilibeth Nakpil

GMA'S high school '66 and college '70 classmates (standing, from left) Alice Felix, Minnie Hugo, Apples Meer, Mavis Chua and Annie Montano; (seated) Marga Ortigas, Paz Sotto, Adele Olives and Victoria Tuason

THE MAJORETTES of Esteban Abada Elementary School perform during the formal opening of Creative Kids Center.

AT THE Studio, students learn how to play various musical instruments.

Goodbye, dunces; welcome, geniuses

From page C2

said. "We value new ways to solve problems. Generally, as a society, we don't encourage creativity, but industry does reward people for their creativity. Creativity is something that takes practice and should be encouraged all along."

Innovative center

HSBC supports the Department of Education's efforts to promote and upgrade the quality of education in public elementary schools. The Creative Kids Center and its programs support the integration of various disciplines as outlined in the new basic education curriculum.

Designed by Dayang Yraola (project manager), Angelo Magno (visual arts), Jose Claudio Guerrero (language arts), Jesusa Noveno (dance), Patricia Santiago (dramatic arts) and Carmel Yparraguirre (music), the Creative Kids Center provides the school with three new facilities.

The Gallery is a room for the visual arts program with work tables for individual and group activities, a demonstration table for instructors, wall space and pillars to display artwork.

The Stage provides ample space for up to 25 performing arts students, complete with a full-body mirror, dance mats, a platform, audio equipment and spotlights.

The Studio is a music room designed like a rehearsal studio for a group ensemble. Students learn and practice playing various musical pieces and instruments, including those from Philippine indigenous cultures.

Through the Center, it is hoped that learning will be more interesting and hands-on for Esteban Abada's more than 2,000 students, who will have the chance to use the facilities at least one hour a week in their regular classes.

Gifted students

The Center also aims to provide gifted students with more opportunities to discover and develop their talents through various school clubs and organizations.

"A healthy imagination not only creates a resourceful and productive individual, but also builds self-confidence, a significant factor, which affects the individual's ability to learn in all areas of education and one that lasts for his or her entire life," said Yraola. "When a child creates a work of art, he's not just drawing a picture, he's engaging in self-expression and, moreover, the creation of self-esteem and individuality."

Yraola added that the Center allows teachers to integrate art, music and other disciplines in their lessons, drawing inspiration from John Falk and Lynn Dierking's primer on art education and Dr. Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligence.

The theory of multiple intelligence is a critique of the notion that there exists but a single human intelligence that can be assessed by standard psychometric instruments. It is used to achieve a more personalized curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The eight intelligence are: linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalistic.

"We are all born creative, but if we neglect to develop and strengthen these skills, our creativity becomes inhibited," Yraola said. "By assisting and encouraging a child's creativity, you set the stage for endless opportunities for that child's imagination. A healthy imagination not only creates a resourceful and productive individual, but it also builds self-esteem, which is an important tool that will be used for the rest of that child's life."

Work is underway for HSBC's next educational program, Empowering Schools to Excel, which seeks to help four public elementary schools in Metro Manila become centers of excellence in Math, English and Science.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

FROM left, Nina Lim Yuson, Museo Pambata; Nancy Harrington, Books for the Barrios; Warner Manning, HSBC, and his wife Julie; Marivic Rufino-Buenaventura, painter; and Antonio Maigue, flutist.

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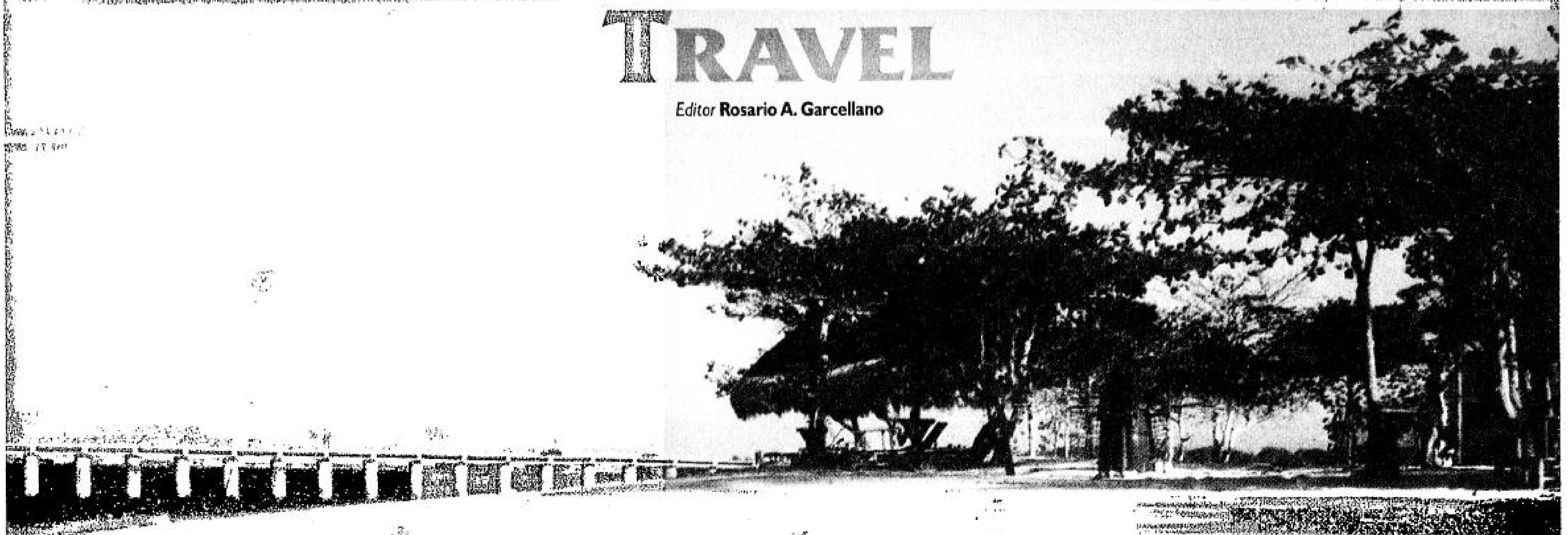
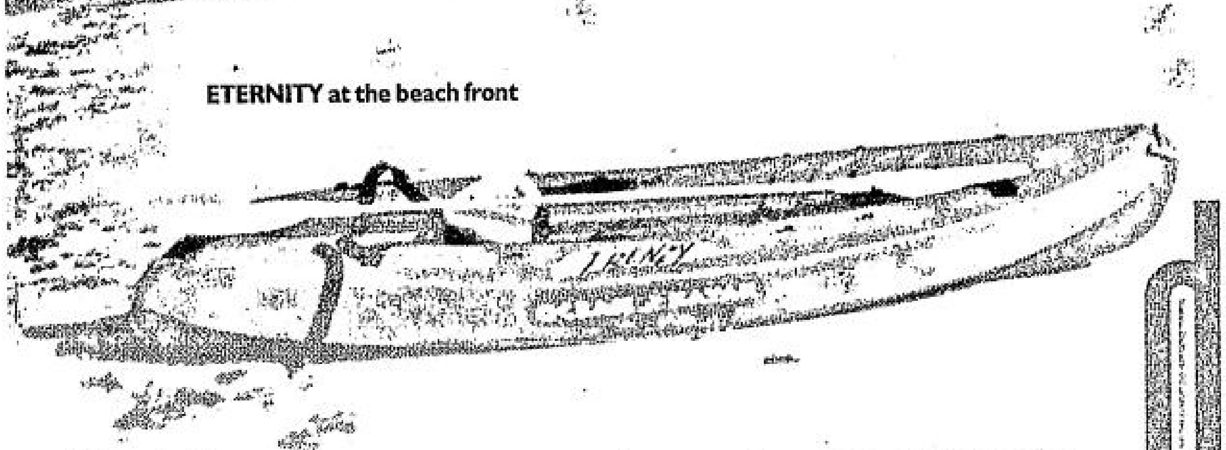
TRAVEL

Editor **Rosario A. Garcellano**





ETERNITY at the beach front

Escape to dos palmas

Here's how even someone who can't swim can make the most of a getaway from the city's madding crowd

Text and photos by Marlet D. Salazar

WHEN talk of retiring (in the very far future) comes up among my circle of friends, a pal is consistent in saying that she'd spend her retirement years at a beach front—her own. It was not until I experienced a serene weekend at a resort in Palawan that I fully comprehended her. And boy, I thought, who wouldn't want to nurse that dream?

I don't swim, so a visit to a luxurious island resort is not exactly my idea of an ideal weekend escape. And I do not consider an hour-long boat ride an exciting prospect. But all my apprehensions vanished the moment I faced my fear.

The thing I like best about the Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort is its accessibility. From Manila, the plane, bus and boat rides needed to get there take not more than an hour and a half.

The resort is named for the two 80-foot-high buri palms that literally tower above the other trees on the island. But it seems these *dos palmas* will be joined by a radio tower if and when construction of a cell site is approved and completed. From what I gathered from the engineers I spoke with, it will be a notch taller than those signature trees.

January is considered a lean month for resorts. It was thus surprising to find that among the people on the island were Korean tourists, honeymooners, a lonesome Aussie guy, *balikbayan* from Canada and a number of guests on a day tour.

COTTAGES with a view

We were on a three-day-two-night package worth P16,000, including airfare. The day-tour guests each paid P1,200 to enjoy several hours of peace and quiet away from the concrete jungle.

We were ushered to our quarters built over the water. And as though luck were greeting us with a huge smile, I found that the bayview cottage I shared with another Manila-based member of the media had a marvelous vista of the blue sea and the sunset.

There is no TV or radio set inside the cottages. What lulled us to sleep was the music of the waves—the only music I wouldn't mind listening to over and over.

Some of the guests prefer the garden cottages built duplex-type with a loft. The 21st and last cottage has been converted into a spa where an aromatherapy massage not only soothes the body but relaxes the mind as well. The resort offers several herbal treatments. Highly recommended, but a little costly (P2,250), is the Dead Sea face and body therapy.

My idea of relaxation at the beach is walking on the shore, reading a book, emptying my mind and just lying on the sand with an eye out for pieces of coral that might find their way near me.

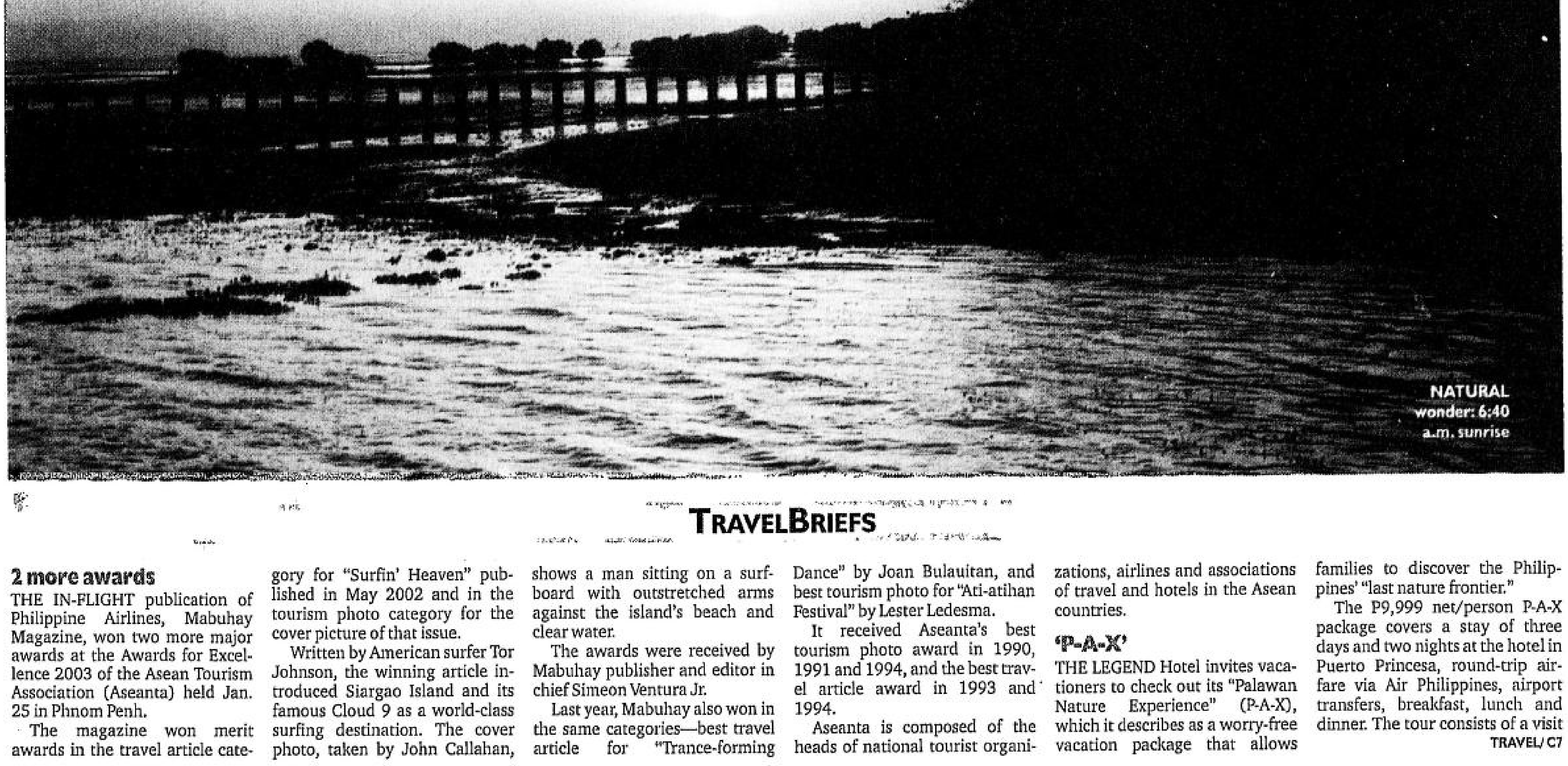
That was the ultimate vacation for me. Well, not anymore.

Water sports are a must if you want to experience a real island-resort vacation. First on the list is kayaking.

But hey, wait! I don't know how to swim, so how can I be expected to enjoy paddling away even with a life vest on? My very patient roommate agreed to "hitch" me in a two-person kayak. Somehow we found ourselves tangled in the mangroves sheltering migratory birds. But I didn't see any two-legged winged creature on my first venture out.

My roommate, who happens to be a licensed diver (imagine how lucky I was), brought me to the middle of the sea. There, I saw schools of fish jumping like playful kids in the water. For me it was just amazing. And I saw more of them in the succeeding days.

ESCAPE/ C7



NATURAL wonder: 6:40 a.m. sunrise

TRAVELBRIEFS

2 more awards

THE IN-FLIGHT publication of Philippine Airlines, Mabuhay Magazine, won two more major awards at the Awards for Excellence 2003 of the Asean Tourism Association (Aseanta) held Jan. 25 in Phnom Penh.

The magazine won merit awards in the travel article category for "Surfin' Heaven" published in May 2002 and in the tourism photo category for the cover picture of that issue.

Written by American surfer Tor Johnson, the winning article introduced Siargao Island and its famous Cloud 9 as a world-class surfing destination. The cover photo, taken by John Callahan, shows a man sitting on a surfboard with outstretched arms against the island's beach and clear water.

The awards were received by Mabuhay publisher and editor in chief Simeon Ventura Jr.

Last year, Mabuhay also won in the same categories—best travel article for "Trance-forming Dance" by Joan Bulauitan, and best tourism photo for "Ati-atihan Festival" by Lester Ledesma.

It received Aseanta's best tourism photo award in 1990, 1991 and 1994, and the best travel article award in 1993 and 1994.

Aseanta is composed of the heads of national tourist organizations, airlines and associations of travel and hotels in the Asean countries.

'P-A-X'

THE LEGEND Hotel invites vacationers to check out its "Palawan Nature Experience" (P-A-X), which it describes as a worry-free vacation package that allows families to discover the Philippines' "last nature frontier."

The P9,999 net/person P-A-X package covers a stay of three days and two nights at the hotel in Puerto Princesa, round-trip airfare via Air Philippines, airport transfers, breakfast, lunch and dinner. The tour consists of a visit

TRAVEL/ C7

Escape to Dos Palmas

From page C6

That night I was informed that the next day's activities would jump-start with an intro diving course for me at Helena's Garden. But wait a sec! I survived kayaking; diving was not on my list.

Prodding from the ever-patient dive masters and an assurance from a friend convinced me that I shouldn't pass this up. I decided to go last.

I religiously memorized the hand signs, just in case. Before I plunged into one of the craziest things I ever did, dive master Tabs promised me that I would return to Dos Palmas as a licensed diver. Well, Tabs, I guess you have to wait a little longer.

Underwater, I discovered another world. Fish of different kinds, colors and sizes were all around me. The only problem with the first dive was I couldn't fully concentrate on the wonders of the sea because I was too focused on my breathing. But the "risk" was definitely worth it.

Dos Palmas is on Arreceffi Island, which is situated in the tropical waters of Honda Bay northeast of Palawan's capital Puerto Princesa. The reefs of Honda Bay are ideal for snorkeling. Licensed divers can avail themselves of complete diving equipment at the Marine Sports Center.

However, I noticed that one of the most famous water sports—jet skiing—is not allowed on the island. Ivan Spencer Lim, Dos Palmas owner and general manager, is a conservationist himself. He is convinced that jet skiing will not do any good to the marine life and the environment.

So if you and your group are seeking fun, try the banana boat. And if the wind allows, why not try windsurfing instead?

For the athletically inclined, this upscale island-resort also has facilities for basketball, beach volleyball, badminton, tennis, and even billiards.

Now if you crave TV or radio, there's a TV set at the bar which—fortunately or · un, depending on your perspective—was not working at the time we were there. But the 250-square-meter function room comes complete with an audiovisual system.

Arreceffi is the second to the last island of Palawan, the last being Fondeado. Island hopping is one of Dos Palmas' exciting offerings. Imagine breezing through Bat Island and Snake Island and then having a leisurely lunch at Puting Buhangin.

Speaking of lunch and other meals, the buffet at the resort's Kara-e-nan Restaurant is proof of the wealth of the sea. Forget your diet; guests just have to try everything.

It's not just the sumptuous food that makes it inviting. The presentation and the venue are also big factors. (For example, I didn't realize that bougainvillea makes an attractive adornment.)

Our first dinner was held by the pool, which incidentally also has a Jacuzzi. Lunch on the second day was preceded by a 30-minute boat ride to Puting Buhangin. If guests so desire, cocktails or a picnic may be arranged in a cottage over the water reached by speedboat.

Wherever I go, my major concern is safety and security. Naturally, these were the first things I asked about from the friendly staff of Dos Palmas, which had suffered immensely from the kidnappings of May 2001.

Security is very much tighter, I was assured. But I wasn't seeing any of the uniformed men who, according to the resort staff, are guarding the island around the clock. I was getting skeptical.

On my second night I stayed at the front desk lounge dozing in the peaceful quiet marked by the sound of the waves and occasional insect noises. It was already quite late when I saw the people I had been looking for all that time. The staff told me that the men were from the Western Command, and that to further reinforce security, a million-peso radar capable of detecting incoming vessels from an undetermined distance had been installed.

It was then that I realized who were the unfamiliar faces escorting us during our island-hopping jaunt.

Most of the resort staff are now trained in self-defense. Oh, and don't be surprised if a well-built man waits your table. He could be just one from. the WesCom.

I was prepared to accept that my diving experience was the highlight of my weekend getaway. But I was in for my own surprise.

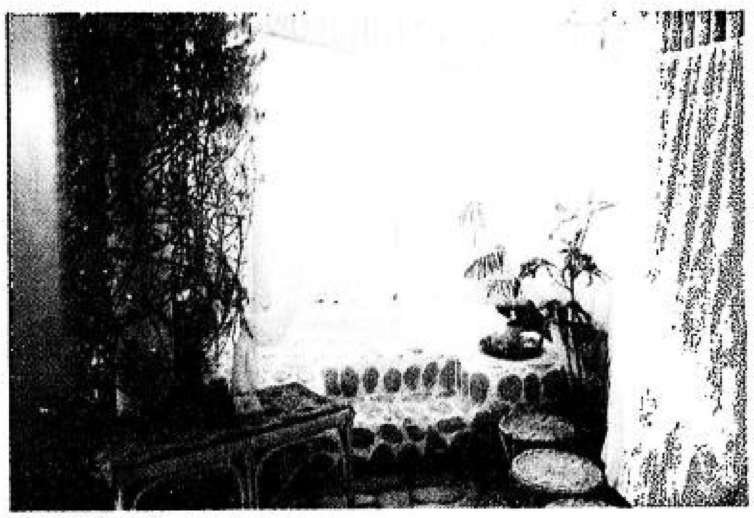
After taking a nap at the beach front, I went kayaking with Jerry, a guide and dive master. Kayaking around a 20-hectare island brought me to the most serene places on earth. Meandering through the lush mangroves, marveling at schools of fish leaping up right in front of me, feasting my eyes on migratory birds and listening to the sounds they made—these were among the best things I have ever experienced.

But from afar, I saw the fierce waves of the sea. What does the world beyond look like?

It was getting dark, and the waves were getting angrier by the minute. Jerry paddled strongly, trying to fight the strong current. I couldn't help but let out a scream as we went under the pier in finding our way to the shore.

And that, for a non-swimmer like me, was a wonderful way to cap a weekend escape.

MANUFACTURED attraction: swimming pool and Jacuzzi



LUXURY at the tropical spa

Travel Briefs

From page C6

to one of Palawan's natural wonders and a look-see of the capital city's popular attractions.

A P4,599 net/person package is available for those who prefer to arrange their own airfare. The package also includes accommodation at hotel for the same duration, airport transfer, all meals, a choice of nature-experience tour and a visit to some favorite city sites.

For the nature experience, the choices include the Underground River Adventure; Honda Bay.Island Hopping, which takes guests to the Snake and Pandan islands for snorkeling and fish feeding; and Narra Excursion covering visits to the Rasa and Turtle islands, Crystal Paradise Resort and Estrella Falls.

Another tour pick is a splash at Nagtabon Beach, which boasts a long shoreline and powder-fine sand, plus an optional boat trip to Chicken Island.

The city tour takes guests to the Crocodile Farm and Nature Park, Butterfly Farm, Iwahig Penal Farm, Viet Ville, and Kamarikutan Cape at Galeri.

There are special rates for children and groups of five and above. For more information, contact the Manila office at 638-9256 and 58 or log on to www.experiencepalawan.com.ph. Or visit The Legend Hotel Manila at 60 Pioneer corner Madison Streets, Mandaluyong City.

'Visita Iglesia'

THE PACIFIC Island Resort Management Center is open for bookings for its Holy Week promo scheduled on April 17-18.

There will also be a visit to the Pahiyas Festival in Lucban Quezon, on May 14-15. Seats are limited, and early bird promo discounts are available.

For inquiries, call 806-7040, 0920-7814081 or 0916-5602469.

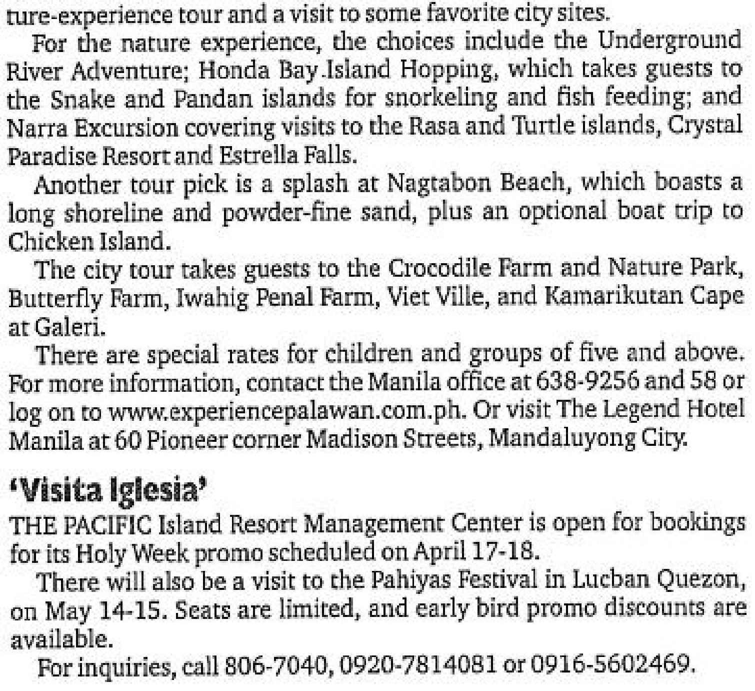
Marian pilgrimage

A PILGRIMAGE to well-known Marian shrines and historic sites in Italy, Portugal, Spain and France has been set for May 21-June 6.

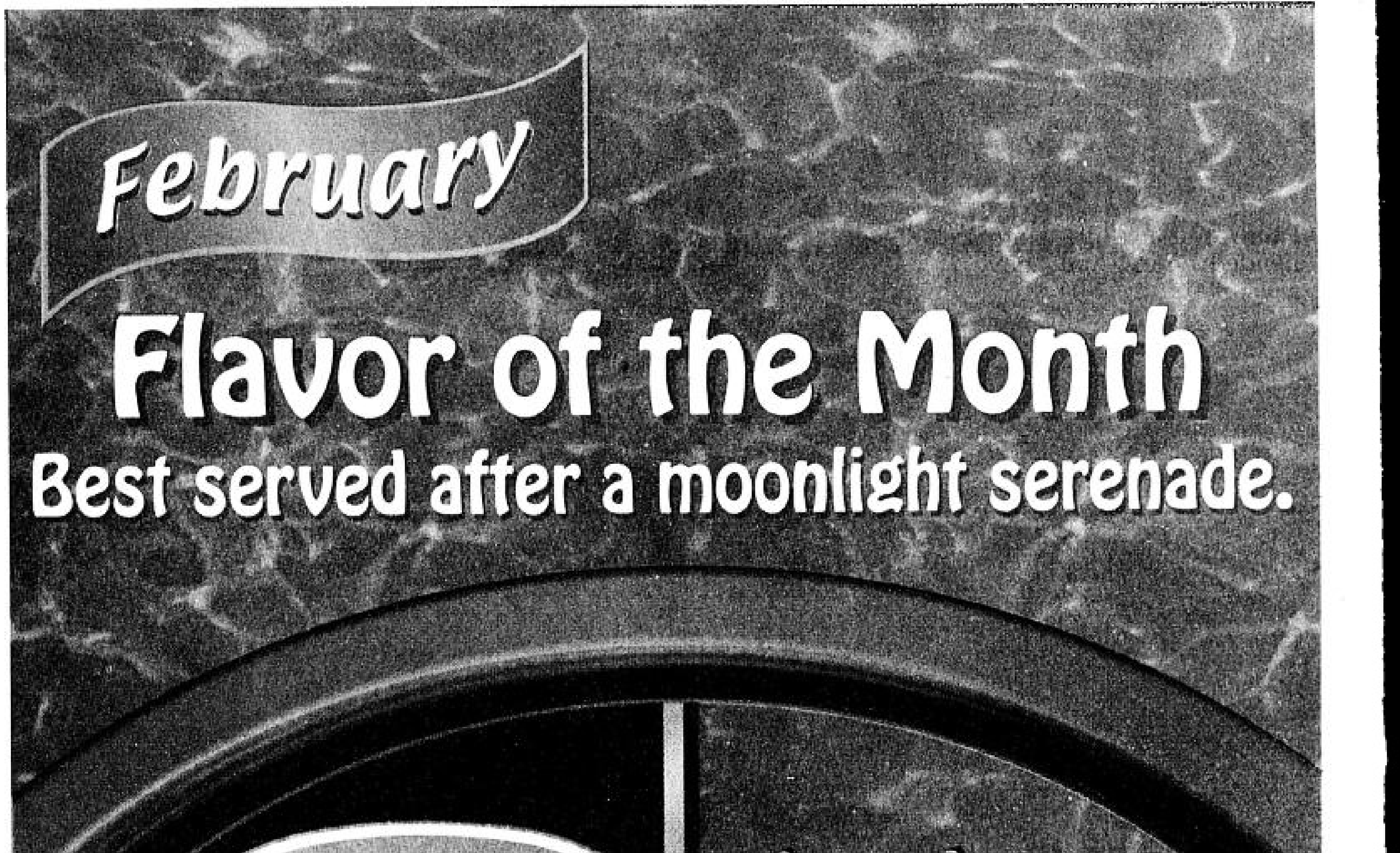
Highlights of the 17-day pilgrimage-tour include an audience with the Pope and visits to the Vatican Museums and noted basilicas in Rome; the Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi; the Gothic monastery of St. Jeronimo in Lisbon; Fatima, where thousands make the pilgrimage to the Church of Bom Jesus de Monte; Santiago Compostela; Zamora; Salamanca; Avila; Madrid and the Royal Palace; the basilica of Our Lady of the Pillarin Zaragoza; the Opus Dei Santuario de Torreciudad in El Grado; Lourdes; Narbonne, the oldest town in southwest France; and the Palace of the Popes in Avignon.

An English-speaking tour guide will accompany the group. Fr. Gerry Tapiador will serve as pilgrimage chaplain.

For inquiries, call 815-4938 or 815-6925 and ask for pilgrimage coordinator Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre. Or visit the Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.



GALLERY of nature's artwork at the Underground River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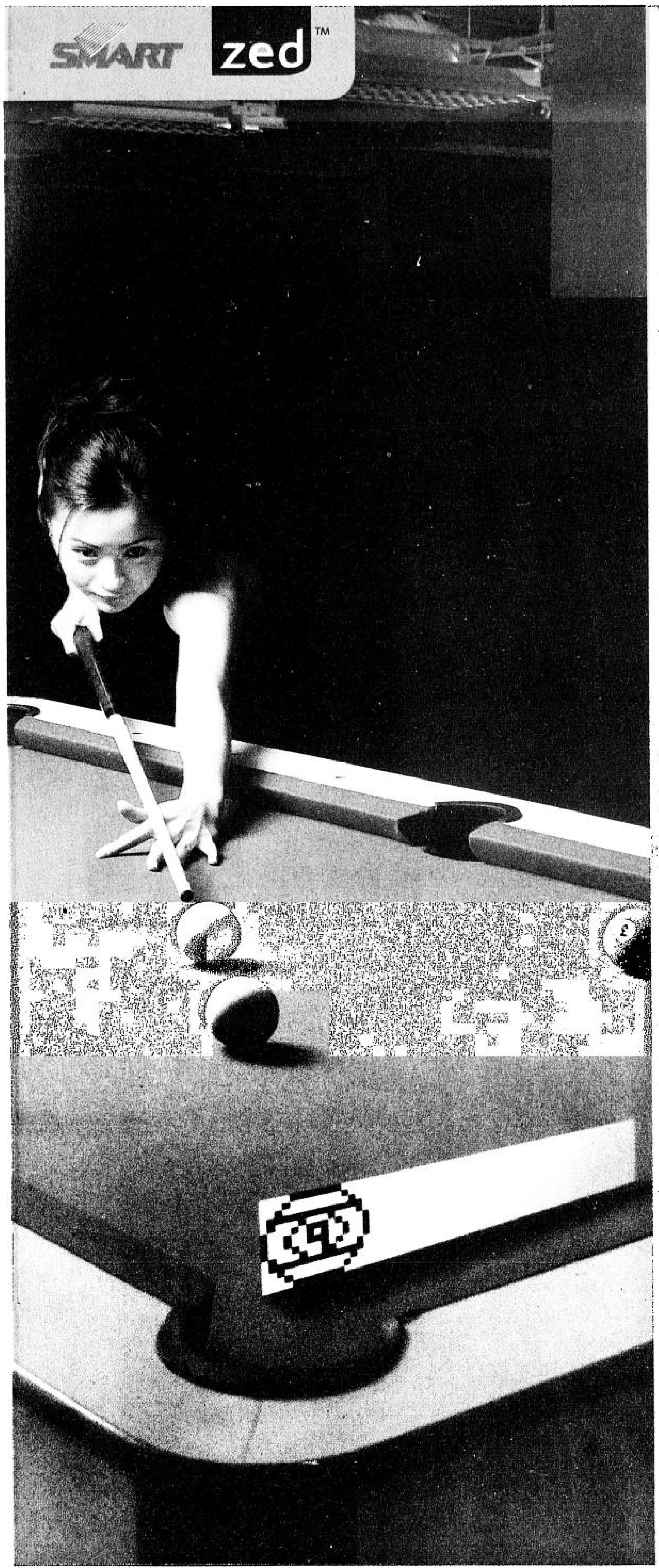

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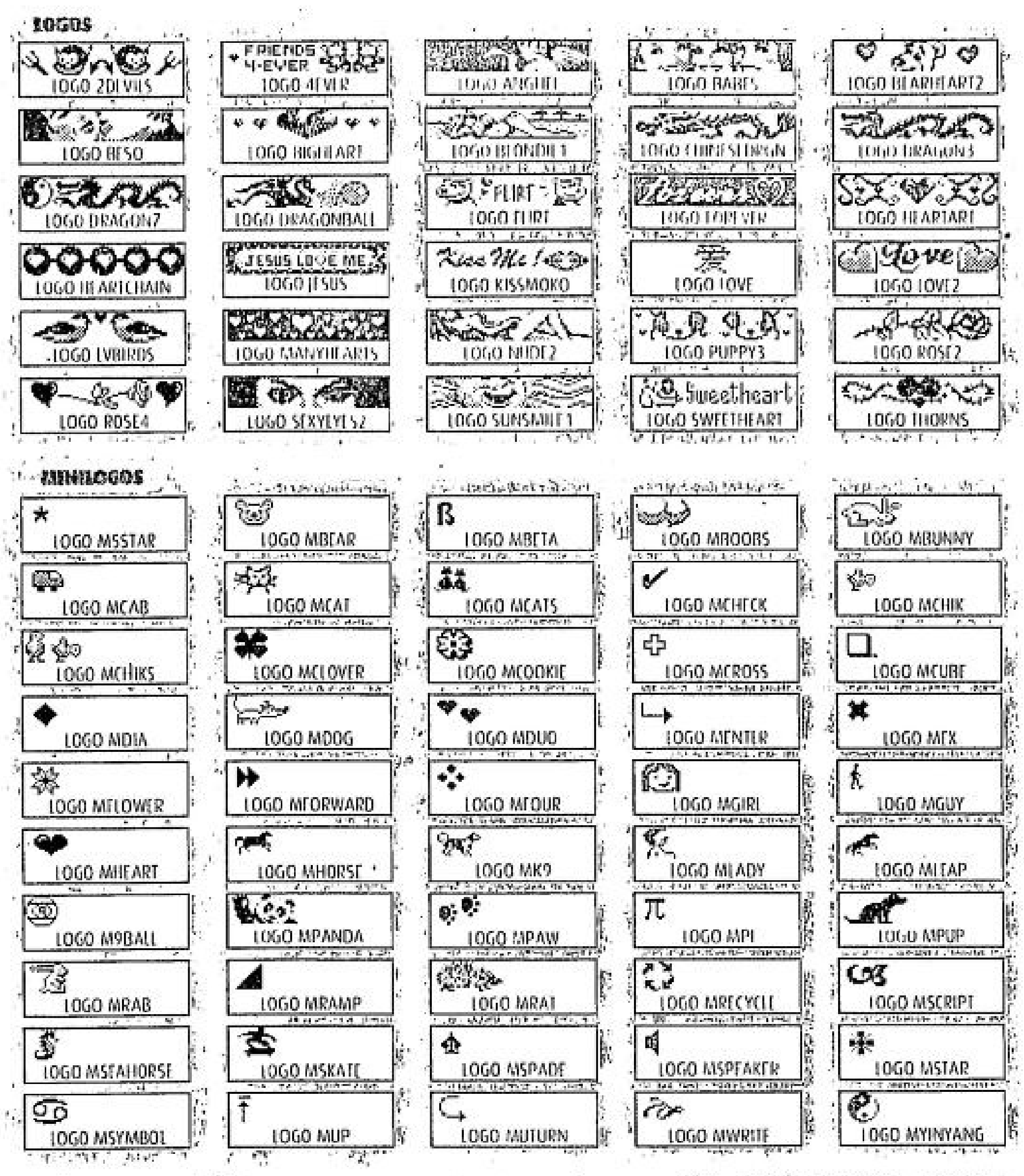
LOGOS

MINILOGOS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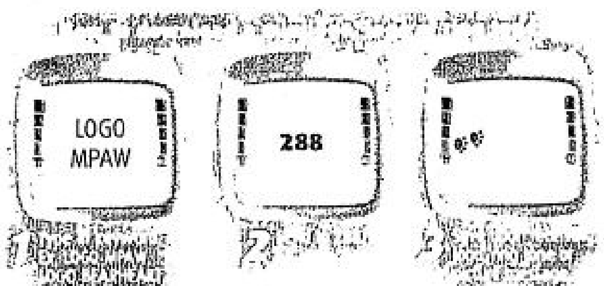
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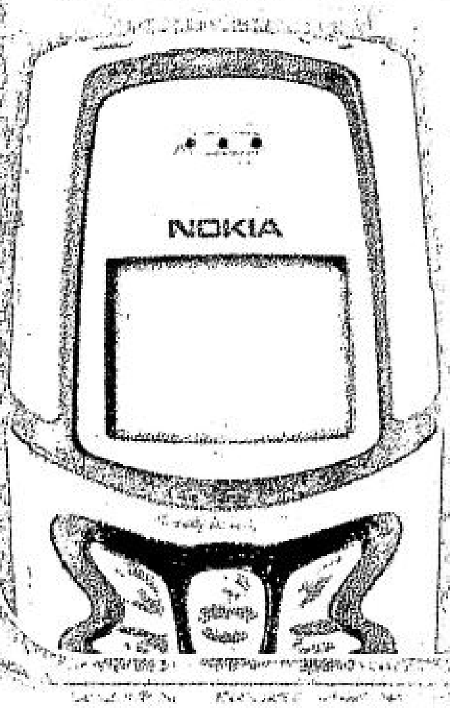

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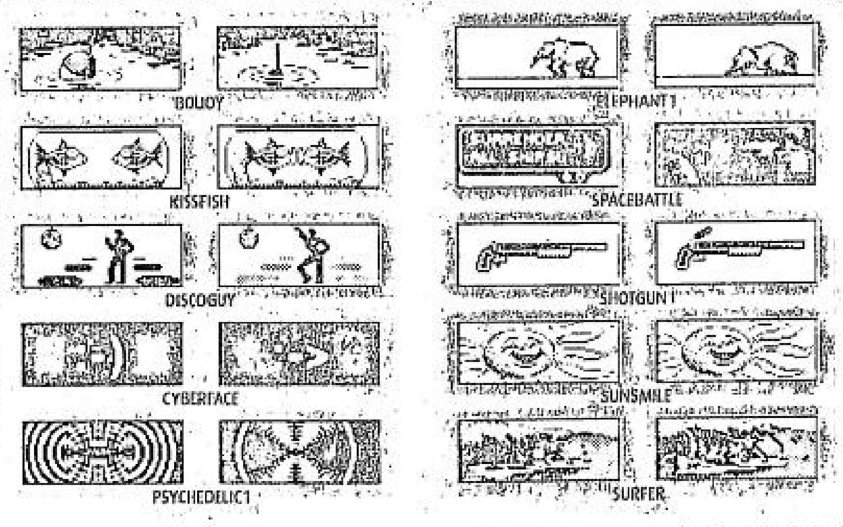
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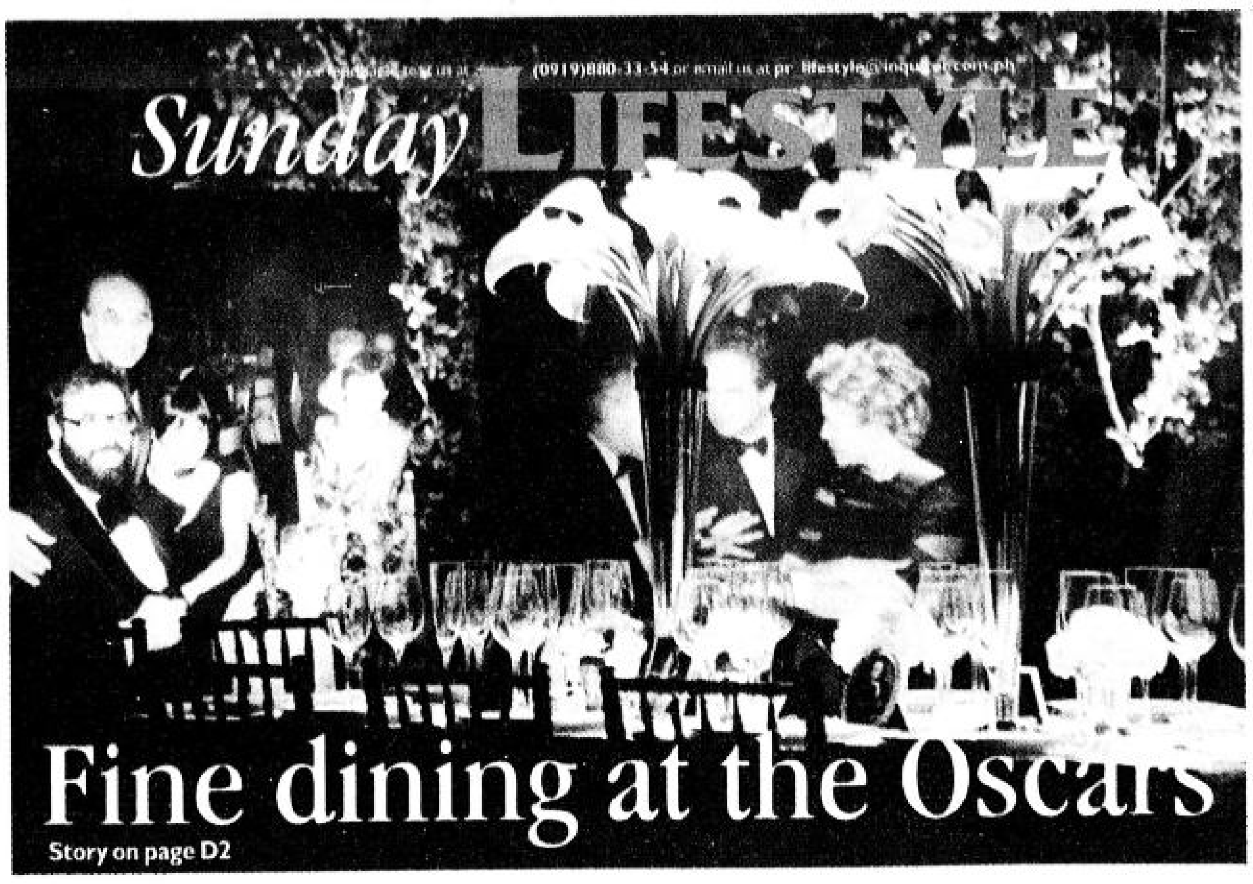

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Fine dining at the Oscars

Story on page D2

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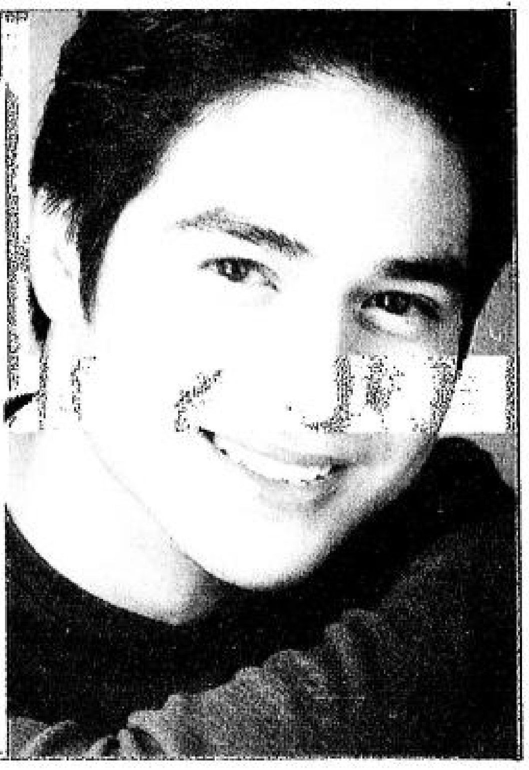

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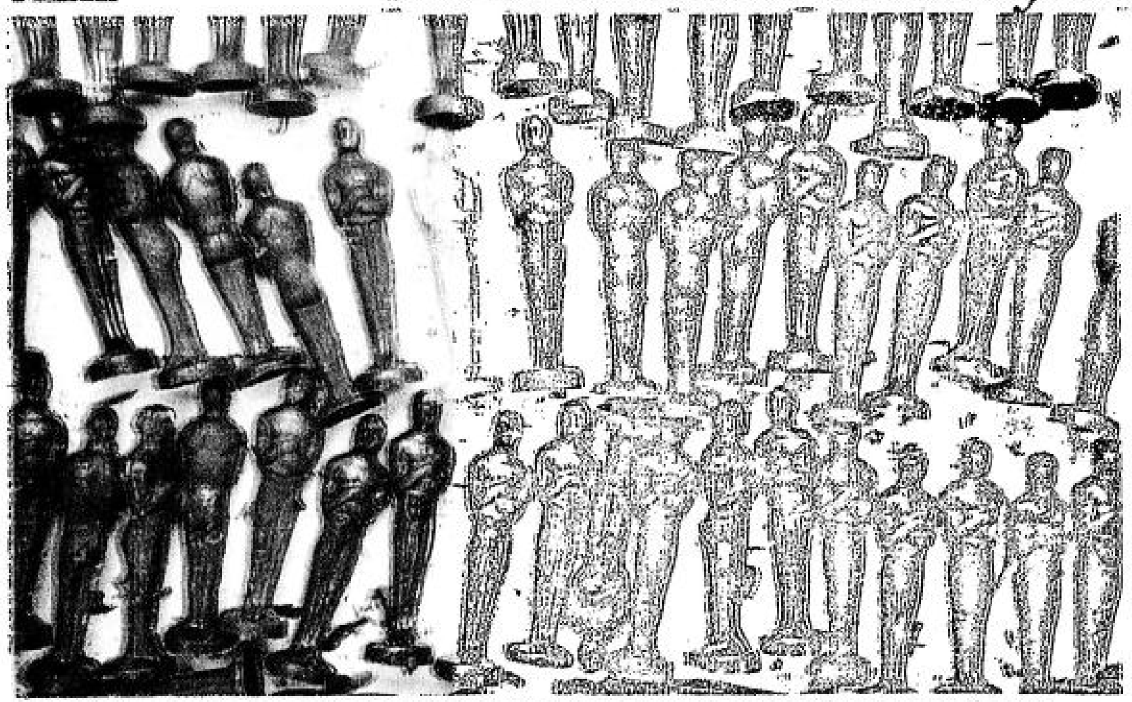


A SINGLE gold-coated chocolate Oscar dessert lies among chocolate Oscars that are yet to be gold-coated by Wolfgang Puck Catering.

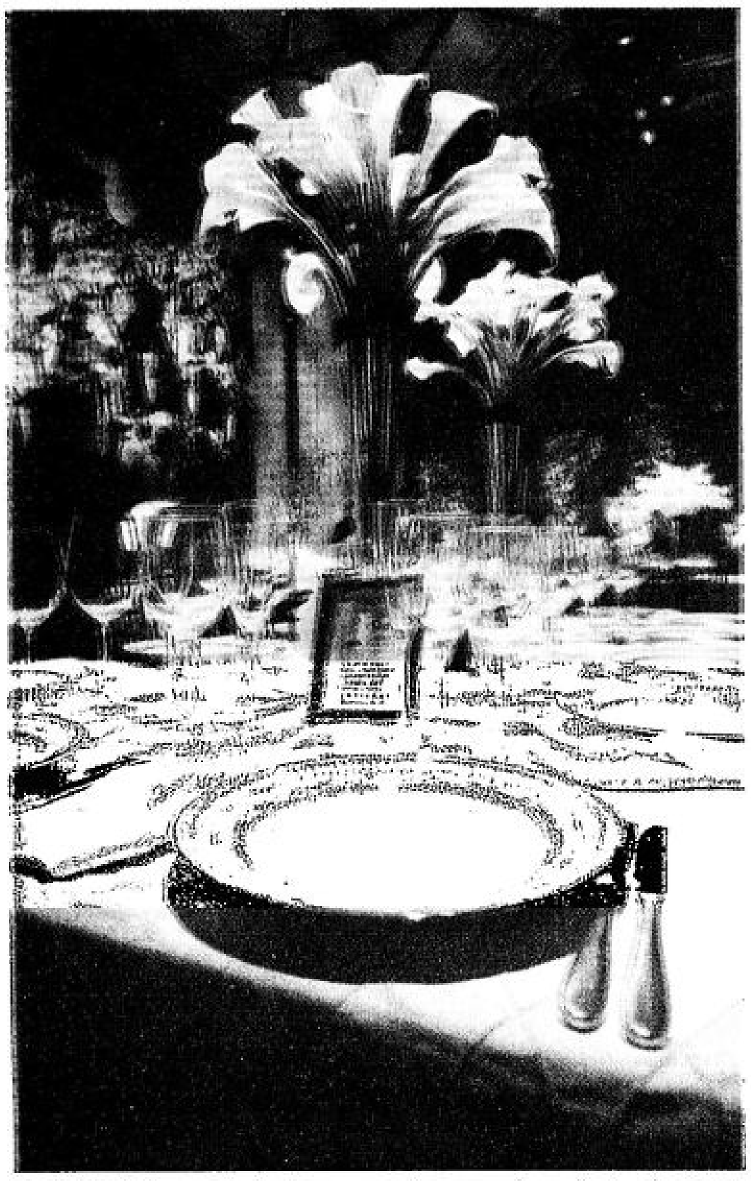
OSCAR awards-shaped crackers

Fine dining at the Oscars

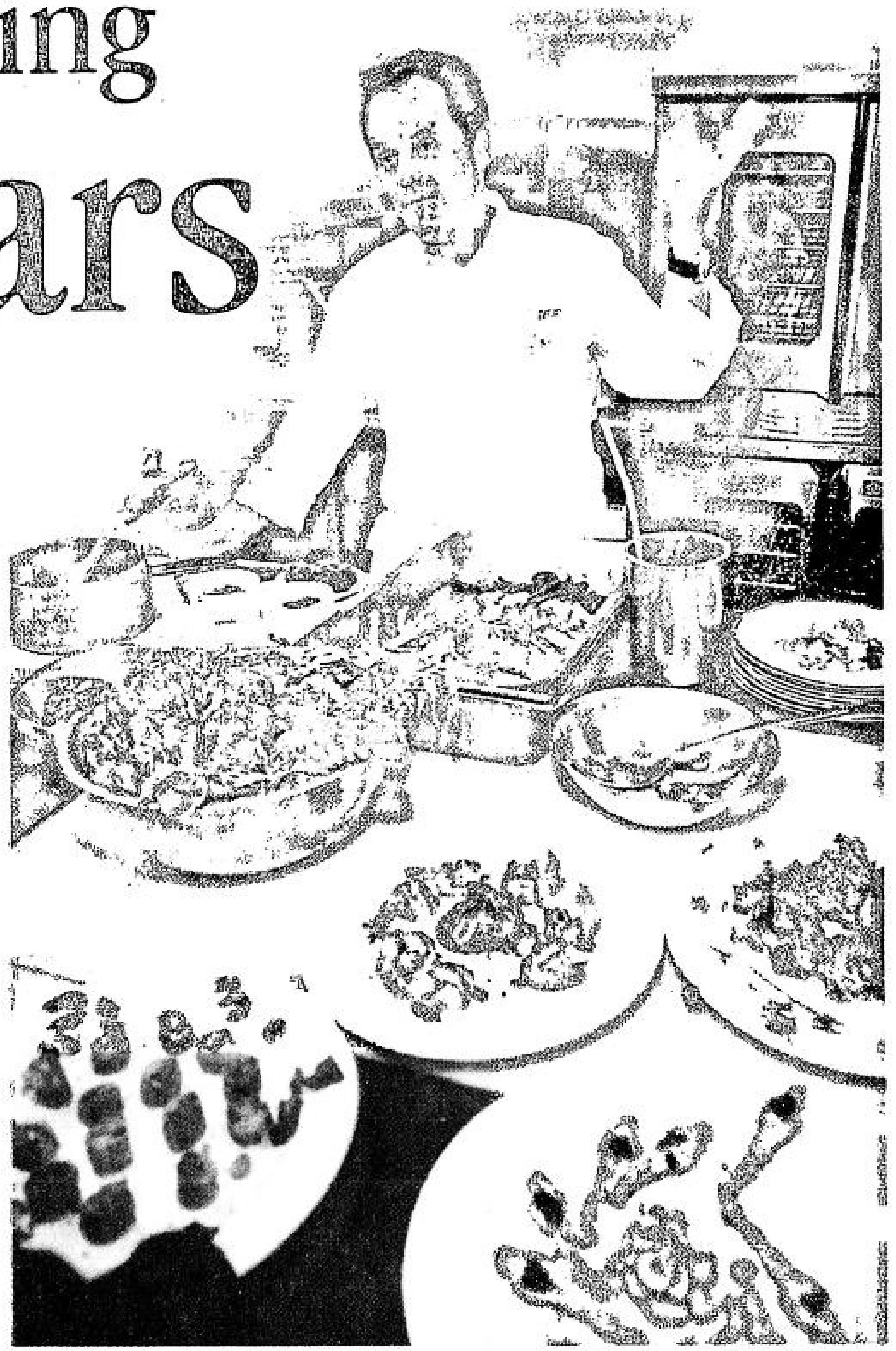
Photos by David McNew

ONLY Hollywood's glitterati will get an invitation to the Governor's Ball to follow the 75th Annual Academy Awards on March 23, but here's a sneak preview of what will be served by Austrian-born chef Wolfgang Puck, the former star attraction at Los Angeles' Ma Maison and now an even bigger box-office hit at his restaurant Spago Hollywood on the Sunset Strip.

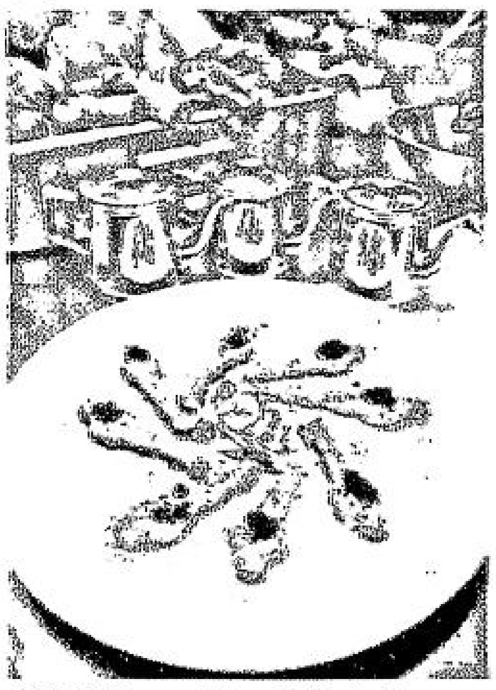
If the creme de le creme of American cinema are expecting Puck's trademark gourmet pizzas, they're in for a surprise. But sure to be billed on the award-winning chef's menu is Oscar himself, all his gold-coated chocolate glory.



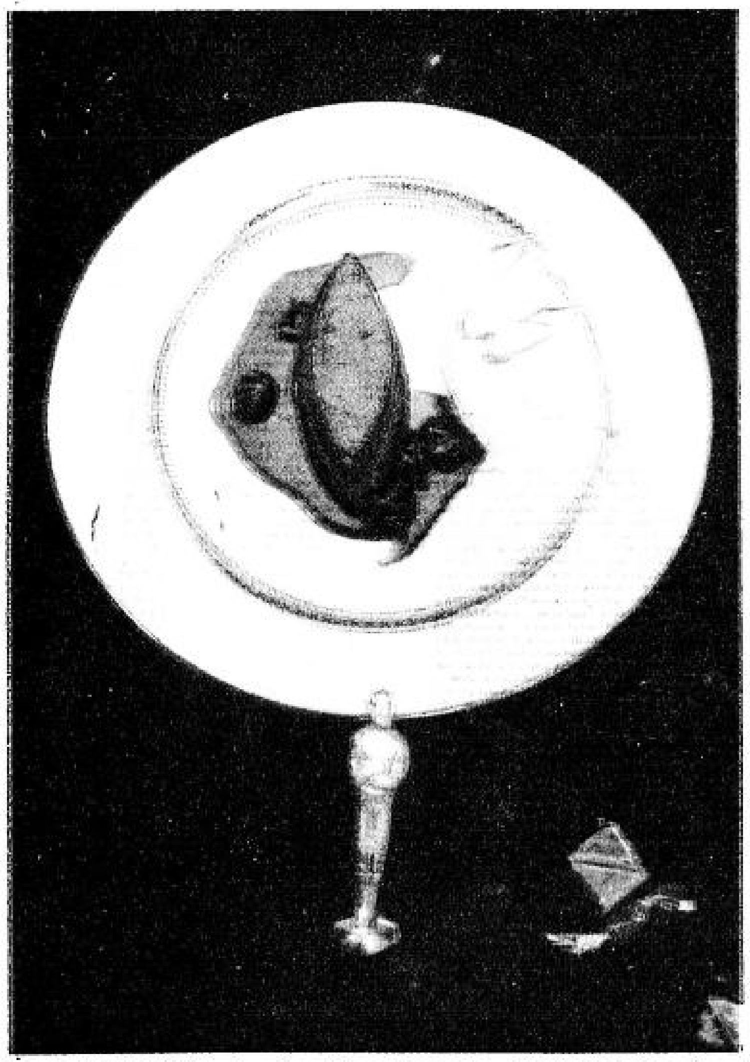
A SAMPLE dinner setting is presented as a sneak media preview.



CHEF Wolfgang Puck gestures as he presents food at a sneak media preview to the Governor's Ball

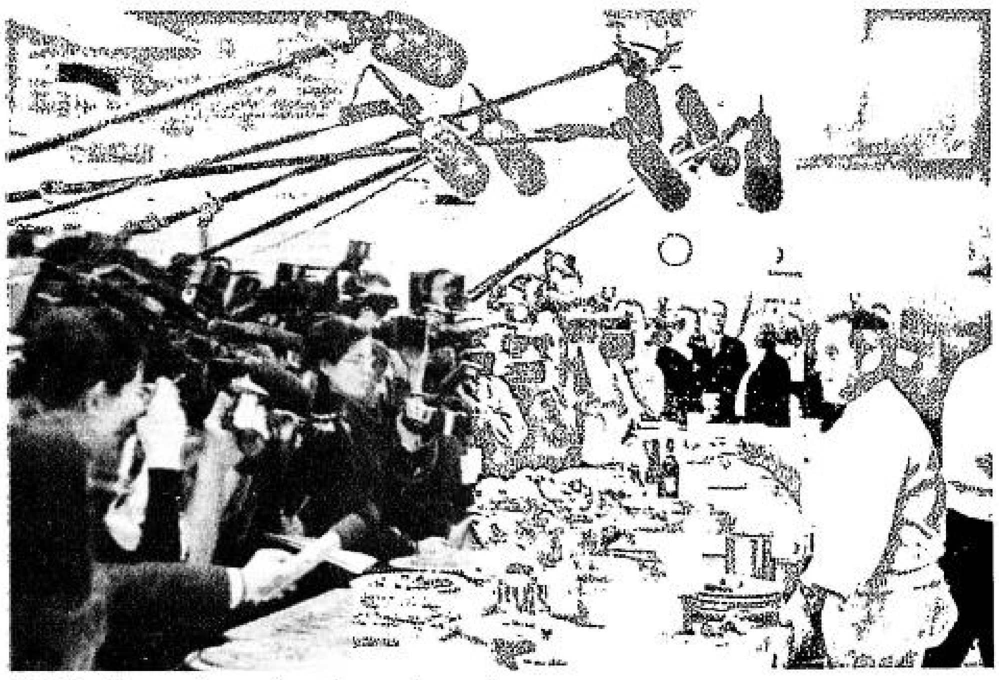


ACADEMY award-shaped Brioche Oscars with Osetra Caviar and Dill Cream



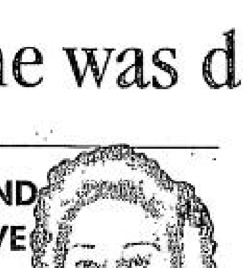
A GOLD-COATED chocolate Oscar lies aside a Marquis of Chocolate Creme Brulee with 75th Bean Tahitian Ice Cream

LOBSTER Salad with artichokes, asparagus, fava beans, baby beets and citrus vinaigrette



PUCK addresses the media at the sneak preview

Husband claims he was dared into having an affair



LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Last week, when I voiced my suspicion, my husband admitted that he was having a relationship with another woman.

He said he was not friendly with the girl, but she sent him daring text messages. Three months ago, he said, she accused him of being gay, so he had to prove to her that he's a man, and that's how the affair began.

He said he continued to see her because she was pressuring him to maintain their relationship. Our children suspected that something was wrong because they seldom saw him. I have asked him to choose between that girl and us. Can I sue them?

This would not have happened had she not dared my husband. And to think that she's pretty and well educated. Doesn't she realize that she's ruining her life and our marriage and family? Aren't girls like her becoming common? Have our morals really gone this low? I think the Church has to do something about this.

A WIFE

It's safe to say that, numerically, there are more such women these days. But it's not easy to say if the proportion of such women, in relation to the adult female population is significantly higher now than, say, four or five decades ago. It may only be that all of us—the temptress, the betrayed wife and bystanders—are just more open about marital problems like yours these days, and the "noise" we make gives the impression that such issues are more prevalent today than before.

The Church, I believe, has not been sleeping on the job. For decades, it's been behind, say, seminars for married and engaged couples and, just recently, the first global meeting of families to protect good family values. Maybe the efforts have not produced dramatic results, but I nevertheless find much consolation in the fact that our country has remained predominantly Christian for the past century, that we continue to disapprove of premarital sex, extramarital affairs, abortion and divorce.

It is understandable that someone like you who is hurting would not see the situation from a broader perspective. Pain is a very self-centered emotion. You'd hurt less, though, if you remember that our society supports the legal wife rather than the mistress. That's why you can sue your husband and his woman, and she can't.

You have to prove to the court that he is guilty of concubinage. Hire a detective agency to get the proof for you. If convicted, your husband and that woman could be imprisoned for up to six years. A conviction, however, would also officially and publicly break up your family. You might be able to handle that, but can your children live with it? That's one reason why most betrayed wives don't rush to the court. They, instead, first try to talk sense into their spouses, go through counseling, and attend marriage-strengthening seminars like the ones I mentioned in this column the other Friday. I suggest that you, too, try those approaches first.

Make your husband realize that he has already proven to that woman that he's a man. Now he should prove that he's a better man by choosing your marriage and your family over her. Tell him that you could not assure him that you would not take him to court for what he is doing. Remind him that many unfaithful husbands and their lovers, who thought that the wife would never behave like the proverbial woman scorned, have languished in jail because of that mistaken notion.

Taguig, Rizal to celebrate St. Anne's feast day

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

ALTHOUGH the feast day of St. Anne falls on July 26, the town of Taguig in Rizal celebrates its town fiesta on March 2. The Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Anne will hold a High Mass at 10 a.m., with Bishop Nestor Cariño as main celebrant, according to the new rector, Fr. Roy Rosales.

This is not the first time that I wrote about St. Anne Church. I visited the church when Msgr. Manny Sunga was the parish priest in 1987. Even then, I heard about the miracles wrought by God through the intercession of St. Anne, mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

It is said that during the war, the men, women and children gathered inside the church and asked for the protection of St. Anne and they were saved. But other petitions are presented by women who cannot conceive a baby, those who have difficulty in giving birth, those who have problems in relationships, those who have no jobs, mothers who have problems with their children and by young people who have been exploited by unscrupulous persons.

Women workers run to her for help. St. Anne also warns people who are in grave danger. When I was sick in 1981, I prayed to St. Anne every day. She guided me to the right doctor who operated on me in 1985. And she helped me when I was feeling weak due to dehydration.

The first missionaries who founded the parish of St. Anne in Taguig in 1587 were the Augustinians. The quadricentennial celebration was held on Jan. 4, 1987, when Monsignor Sunga was parish priest.

I still have a strong devotion to St. Anne and to St. Joachim. Every Tuesday, I pray three Our Fathers, Hail Marys and Glory Bes and afterward, say "Thank you, St. Anne and St. Joachim, for the pleasant surprise today." It is a prayer taught by the late Albert Seeland.

Fr. Roy Rosales took over as rector in March 2002.

Devotees are encouraged to write their petitions and drop it inside a box in front of the miraculous image. The petitions are read during the novenas said in honor of St. Anne.

In faith, our prayers are answered especially through the intercession of St. Anne the Mother of God. We encourage you to make a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Anne in Taguig and make a promise to go back again to say "thank you" when your prayer is answered.

Pilgrimage of Medjugorje

For the second time during Easter, Arpex Travel is preparing a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, which leaves on April 22, Easter Tuesday. The trip includes Vienna, Lourdes and Paris. Rome is an optional destination. Going to Medjugorje is an answer to a call by the Blessed Mother for people to go there. I was called in October 2001. Through the kindness of Robert Puckett, who paid for the trip, I was able to experience praying and singing with people from all over the world inside the Church of St. James in Medjugorje. Besides attending Masses in different languages in the morning, pilgrims gather at the church for the praying of the Rosary at 5 p.m. There is a period of silence afterward before the Mass at 6 p.m. After the Mass, people go to their hotels for dinner, then go back at 8 p.m. for the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

When I came back to Manila, I found myself going to Mass every day without making a promise to do so. I just find myself reserving a part of the day for Holy Mass, however tight the schedule is. For those who wish to join the pilgrimage, please call Arpex Travel at 525-3883/3902. Deadline is on March 11.

'The Shattered Lantern'

Jesuit Communications recently released the book "The Shattered Lantern" by Ronald Relheiser, OMI. The book attempts to explain why we sometimes don't feel the presence of God, even when we believe. The title is taken from the parable written by Nietzsche wherein a madman smashes a lantern in the town square and declares that "God is devil!"

For more info, please call Jesuit Communications at 426-5971/5926.

Pews needed

Vicente Gocela, Pastoral Council president of St. Anthony de Padua Parish in barangay Pomponan, Baybay, Leyte, wrote to ask for help in obtaining new pews and chairs for the church. The estimated cost of one chair and pew is P1,500.

Can we ask St. Anthony devotees and generous readers to pledge one pew and chair? Please write to Fr. Ronald Marcejes, parish priest, or Vicente Gocela, care of St. Anthony de Padua Parish, Pomponan, Baybay, Leyte. The church belongs to the diocese of Maasin.

Our Lady of Manaoag in Palo

The replica image of Our Lady of Manaoag was enthroned in San Joaquin Parish in San Joaquin, Palo, Leyte, on Feb. 15. Fr. Patricio Apa did the enthronement and concelebrated the Mass with Fr. Manuel Salarda of St. James the Apostle Parish in Kaihiran, Biliran, Leyte; and Fr. Virgilio Canete, parish priest of San Joaquin Church. This is the 30th enthronement coordinated by Edna Toral, who began doing so in 1995 in Mandaue, Cebu. The construction of the Rosary Center of Our Lady of Manaoag in Corte, Carmen, is ongoing. Those who want to help can write to Edna Toral at 2 Humabon St., San Antonio Village, Banilad, Cebu City.

Marian

At least 60 photographs of the different titles of the Blessed Virgin Mary measuring 8" x 10" are on exhibit on the ground floor of the Palacio del Gobernador on Gen. Luna Street, Intramuros. Mounted by the Nayon Photographers Club headed by John Rene Fernandez, president, the exhibit shows the images mounted on *carrozas.*

Cutting the ceremonial ribbon were Imelda Cojuangco, founding chair of the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion; Aurora Eizmendi, president of the Cofradia; and Msgr. Nestor Cerbo, rector of the Manila Cathedral.

Also present were Jose Samonte of the Cobolnon Civic Club of Catanduanes; Sandra Chiong of the Intramuros Administration, Clifford Chua, Nenuca Blardony, Cerina Caparas, Jun Pablo, and Dely Arionday. Ted Arcilla sponsored the exhibit, which ends March 3.

Queen Sophia visits Manila

Queen Sophia of Spain will be in Manila on March 3 and 4 to visit the various charitable projects that Spain has been operating in the country through NGOs.

She will be welcomed by Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz, Alvaro de Salas, counselor and deputy head of mission; and Jose Maria Taberne, general coordinator of the Cooperacion Española, which is handling the visit.

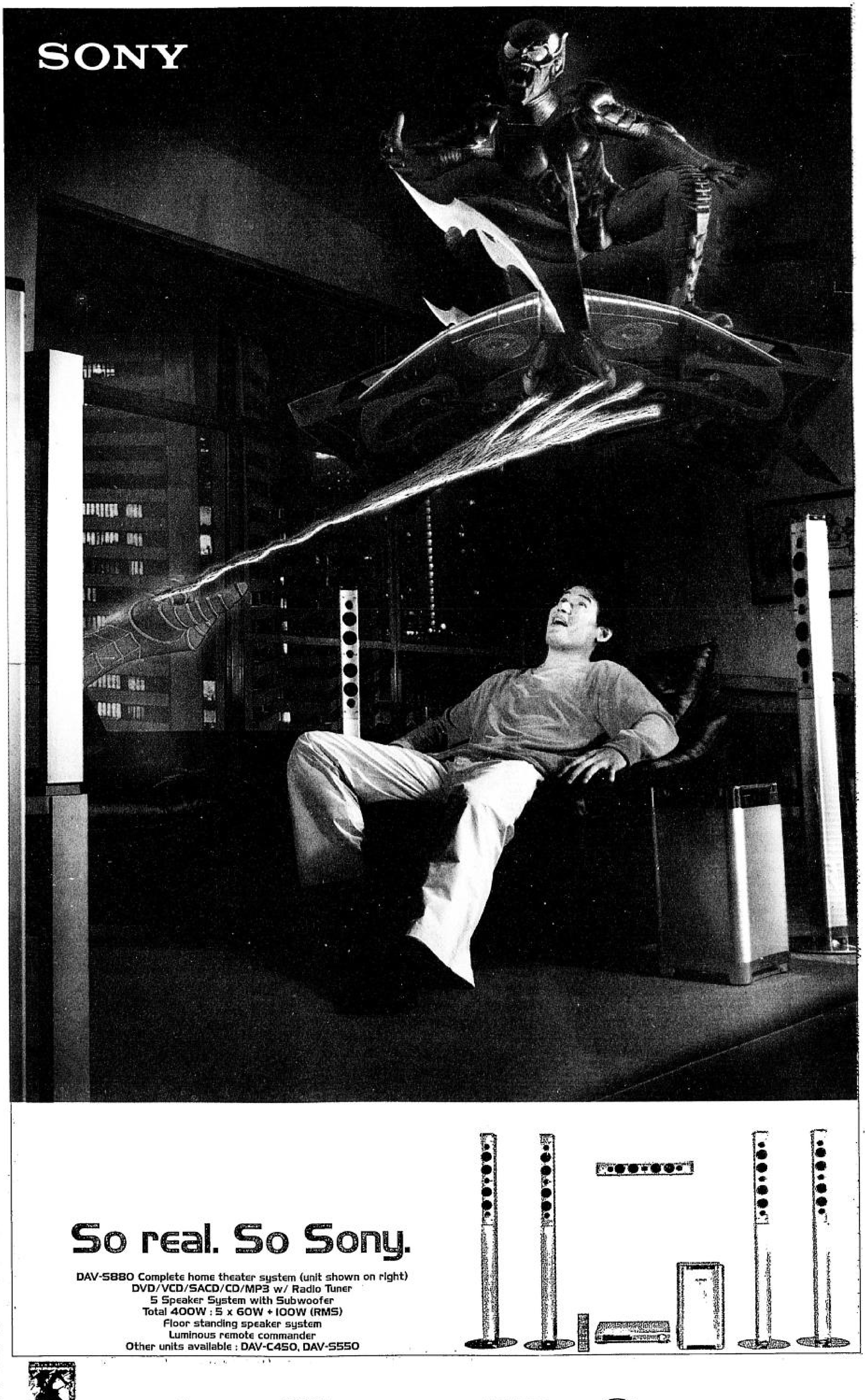
Queen Sophia is expected to visit the following projects: improvement of condition of farmers through the Milandec Foundation, with Fr. Emerito Barcelon; La Escuela Taller in San Agustin Convent, with Fr. Pedro Galende; Filipinas Eye Center at the PGH, with Marcela Mendy as director; and the National Museum, with Corazon Alvina as executive director. Spain has at least 93 NGO projects in the country.

St. Joseph exhibit

The Friends of St. Joseph Foundation is preparing for the exhibit and fiesta of St. Joseph at Hospicio de San Jose on March 10-19. The foundation is inviting devotees to exhibit their images. Registration of images is on March 8-9. Those interested to join can text Danny Reyes at (0917) 812-5148.

Msgr. Josefino Ramirez will bless the exhibit and say the Holy Mass on March 10 at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend the Novena Mass March 10-18 and fiesta Mass on March 19 at 6 p.m.

THE MIRACULOUS image of St. Anne and the child Mary in the Shrine of St. Anne in Taguig



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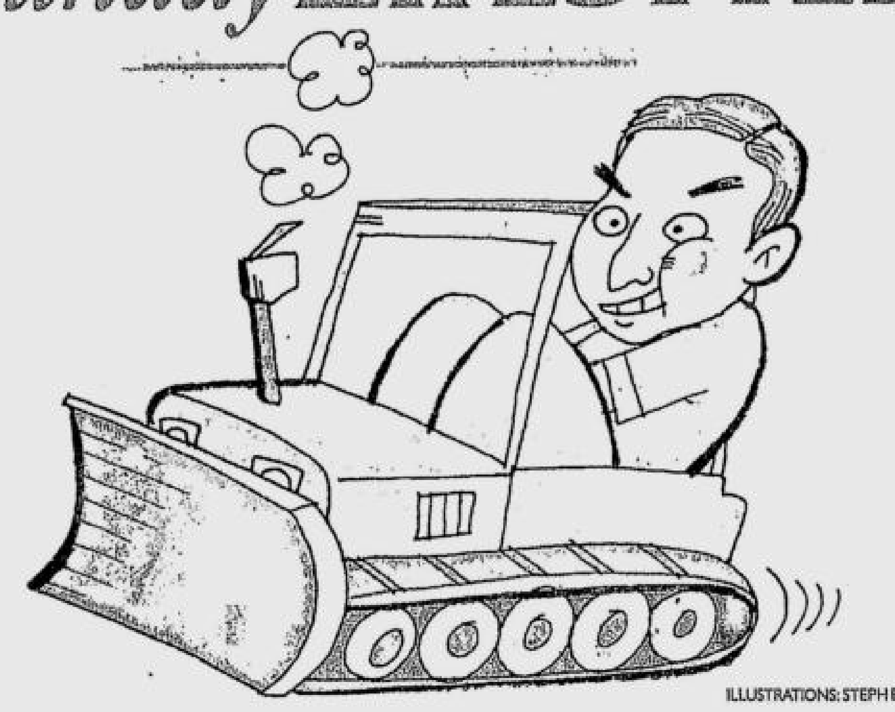
Sunday LIFESTYLE



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Top Ten

people you don't want to be in the same room with

10 **Any President who has a reputation for hurling a mobile phone in a fit of anger.**

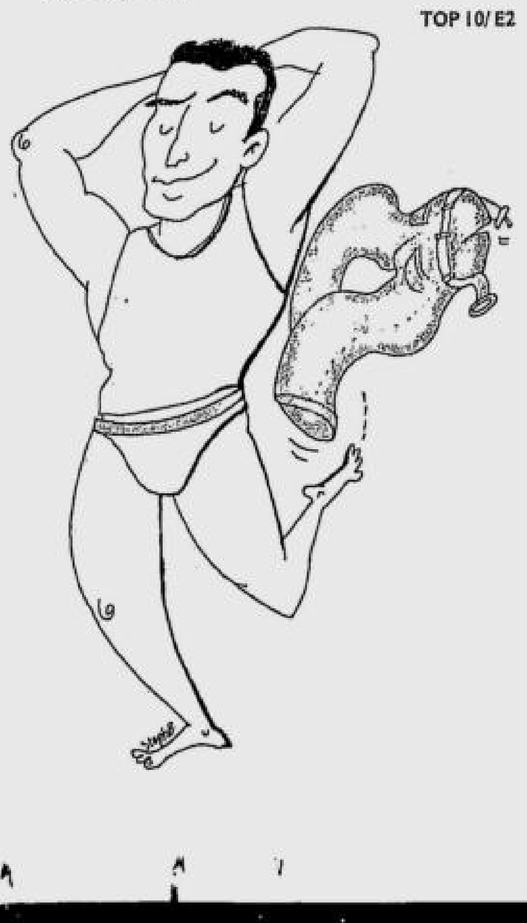
9 **Press Secretary Nani Braganza and Chief of Staff Bobi Tiglao. Especially if the room is the office they're fighting over in Malacañang Palace.**

8 **Kris Aquino. The entire nation knows everything about her—her makeup and lingerie brands, the many ways cute, single guys are trying to seduce her, every sordid detail of her affairs with married men, even the contents of her well-respected mother's letter to her. So what else are you going to talk about with her?**

7 **Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. He might bulldoze the very room you're in so he could construct one of his tacky concrete showcases that make City Hall contractors happier and his reelection prospects brighter. Get as far away from him as you can if you're old and historic.**

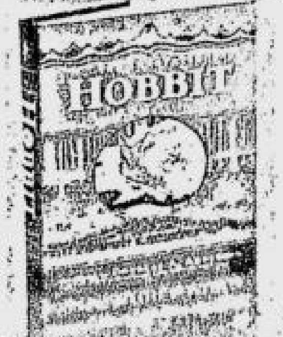
6 **Marc Nelson. He's gorgeous and if he comes into the room in his Bench underwear, you' re going straight to hell for your thoughts.**

TOP 10/ E2

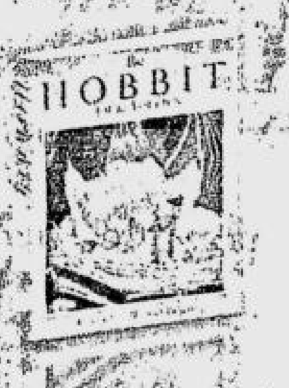


Simply spellbinding choices

The SMART Book Club



The Annotated Hobbit: Revised and Expanded Edition
annotated by Douglas C. Anderson
₱ 825.00



The Hobbit, Illustrated by Michael Hague
J.R.R. Tolkien
₱ 529.00

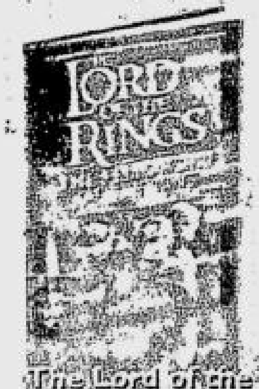
The Hobbit, Leatherette Collector's Edition
J.R.R. Tolkien
₱ 1,035.00

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, Creatures
edited and introduced by Richard Taylor
₱ 369.00

The Lord of the Rings Official Movie Guide
Brian Sibley
₱ 445.00

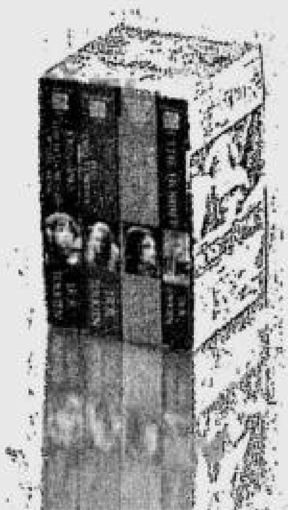
The Hobbit
J.R.R. Tolkien
₱ 299.00

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers, Photo Guide
edited by David Brawn et.al.
₱ 369.00



The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring Visual Companion
Jude Fisher
₱ 1,339.00

The Art of the Fellowship of the Ring
Gary Russel
₱ 1,035.00



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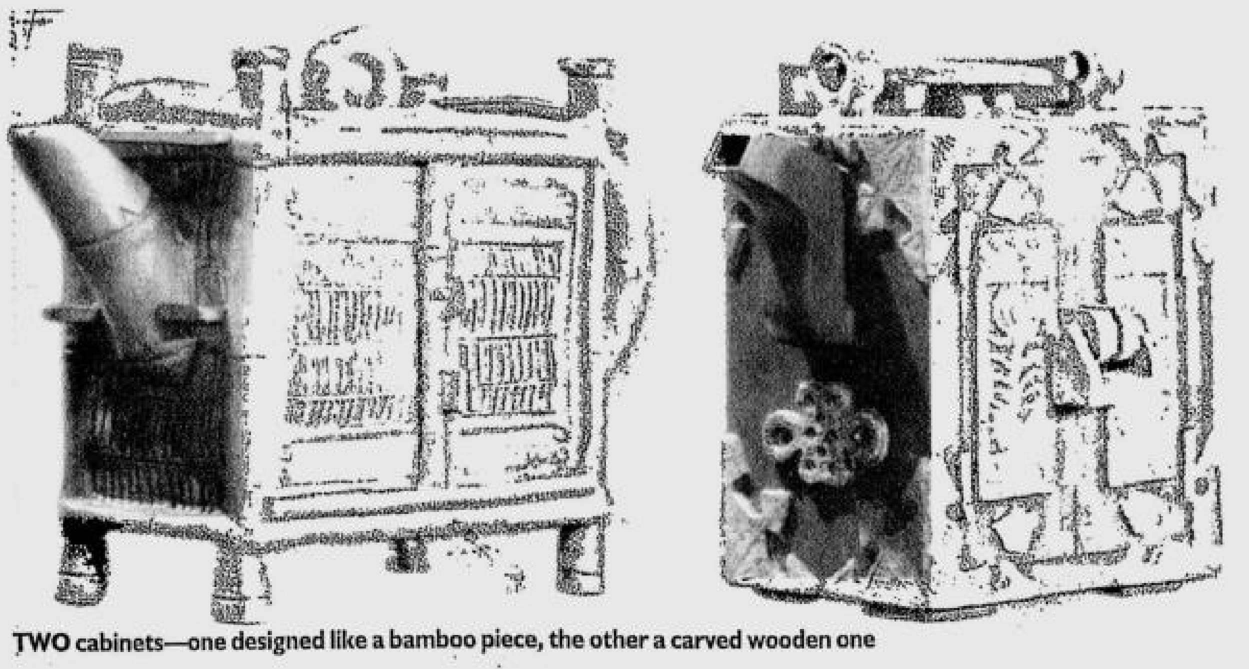
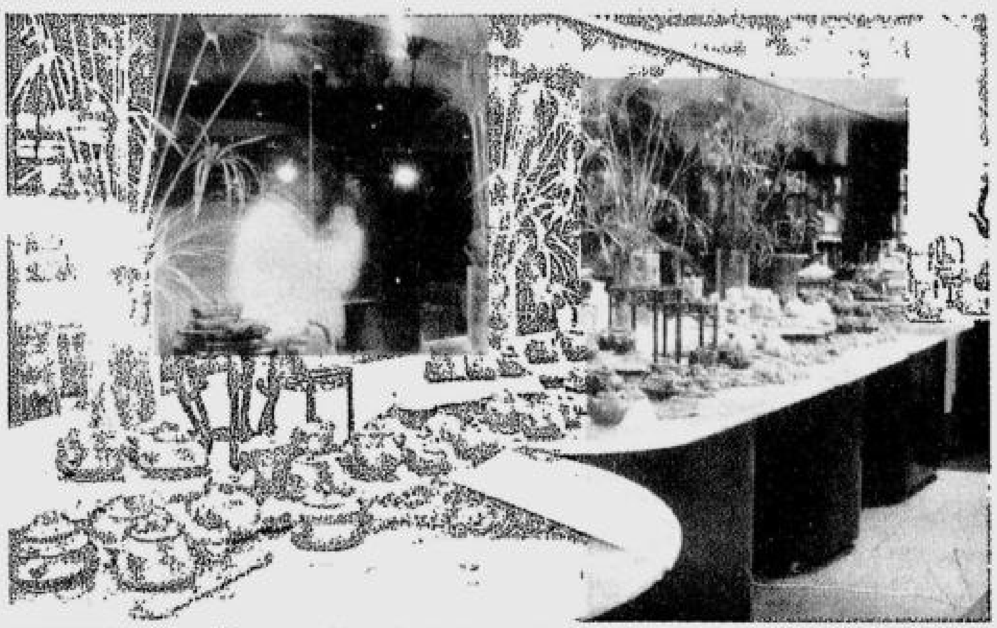


TWO cabinets—one designed like a bamboo piece, the other a carved wooden one

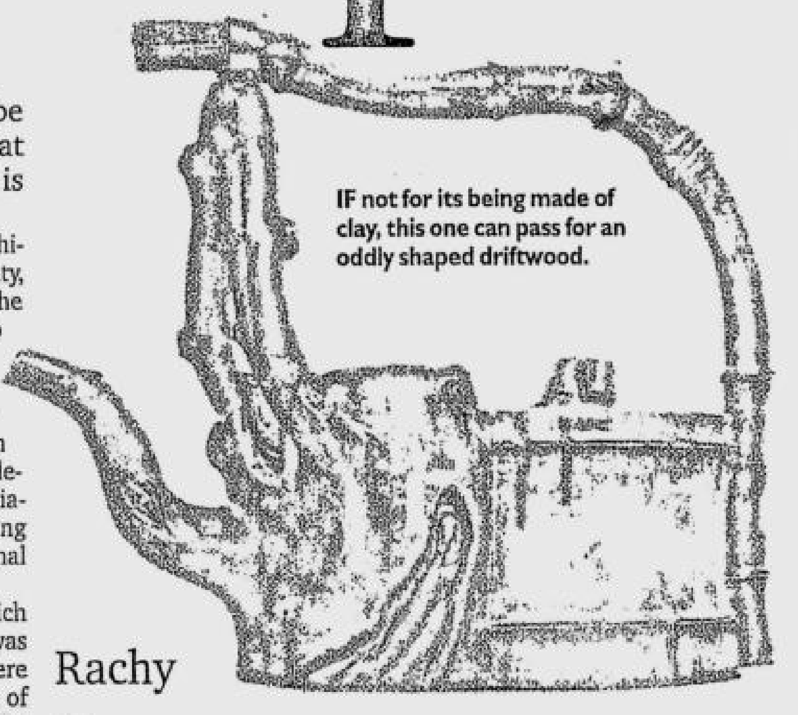


CHINESE teapots all in a row. About half of Rachy Cuna's extensive collection is shown in APCU's celebration of the Lunar New Year.

Tempest in a teapot

Rachy Cuna shares his collection of elaborately crafted pots to welcome the new lunar year

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Bobot Meru



IF not for its being made of clay, this one can pass for an oddly shaped driftwood.

THE LITTLE teapot may be short and stout but that doesn't necessarily mean it is nondescript, as well.

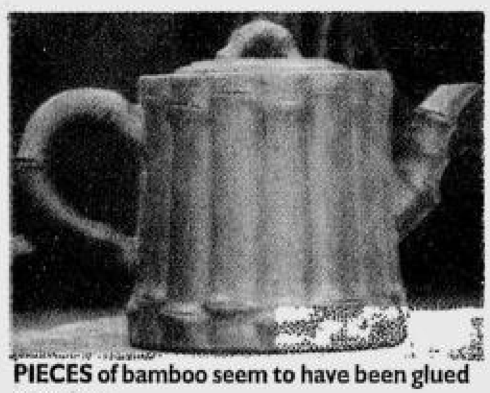
In fact, as Rachy Cuna's collection of Chinese teapots shows, it can be ornate, dainty, full of whimsy, valuable and imaginative. The pots are not just perfectly usable but also very pretty.

Cuna, arguably Manila's style high priest, gave about half of his extensive collection—120 pieces out of more than 300—a rare "airing" during the recent celebration of the Lunar New Year by the Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU), of which he is vice chair for external affairs.

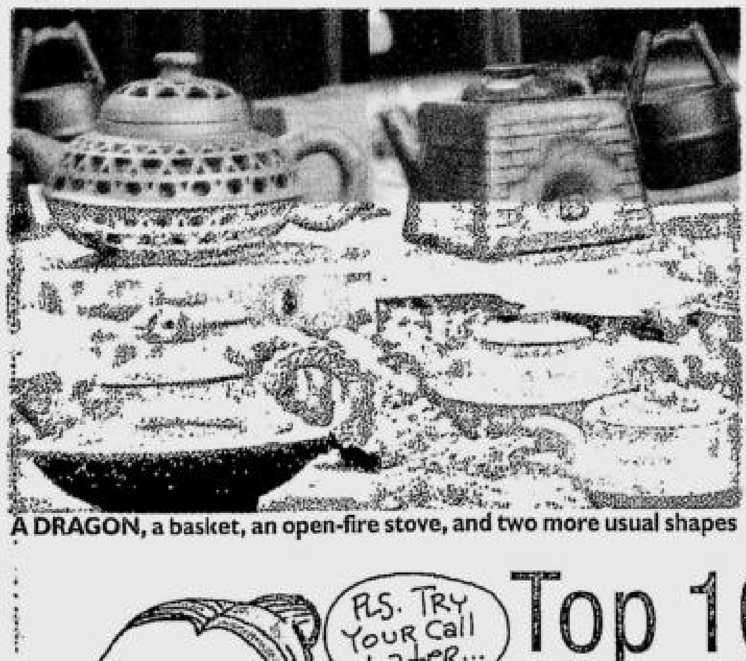
The exhibit served to affirm China's rich cultural heritage and artistic ingenuity. It was astonishing that so much effort and time were spent for crafting something that is a part of their daily routine. But, perhaps, although the Chinese do not seem to have the equivalent of the elaborate tea ceremonies of the Japanese, it is precisely because the teapot is something they have to look at and use every day that they have made it more than just utilitarian.

Contemporary

Think how pleasant it is to have tea poured from a squarish pot that looks like a bamboo cabinet. Or simply sit quietly sipping a hot brew and contemplating how many hours an artisan spent fashioning a pot with the patterns of a woven basket or designed like an old open-fire stove with a kettle for a handle. And, although this is the Year of the Goat (or Ram), it is difficult to object to being served tea from a pot with an intricately carved dragon.



PIECES of bamboo seem to have been glued together.



A DRAGON, a basket, an open-fire stove, and two more usual shapes

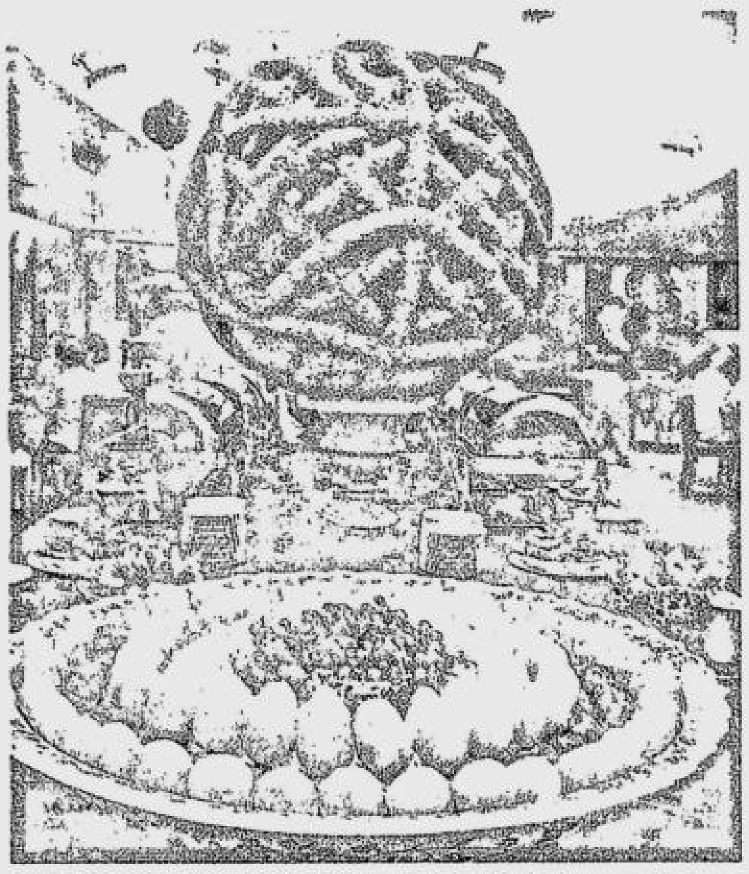
A POT with "crab mentality"

Cuna said his teapot collection came from all over China and the pieces were all contemporary. (The stylist also has a Chinese kite collection, which was showcased last June when APCU marked its 31st anniversary and the proclamation by President Macapagal-Arroyo, who was at one time APCU board secretary, of the annual observance of Philippine-China Friendship Day every June 9.)

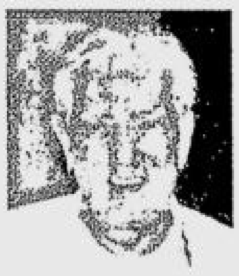
For the Chinese New Year Tea Party and special exhibit of Chinese teapots, which was held at the Skyline restaurant at the World Trade Center in the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex, guests were requested to wear oriental attire. And in keeping with the event, most arrived in Chinese jackets. But Cuna himself stole the thunder from everyone by wearing a 150-year-old Chinese costume he bought in an auction.

Josie Joya Baldovino, APCU adviser and immediate past president, said the next big event for the organization would be the celebration of its 32nd anniversary and the Philippine-China Friendship Day on June 9.

The current APCU board of directors is composed of Lorenzo Ku, chair; Cuna; Santos In Hong Giap, vice chair for internal affairs; Lynn R. S. Sunico, president; Henry Tong, first vice president; Jesus Cham, second vice president; Andrea Edang, executive director; Nina Mata, secretary; Flor Santiago, treasurer; Sy Ang Lok, business manager; Letty Timbol, secretary; and Willie Tee, Jose Ting, Marison Baldovino and Al Perez, directors.

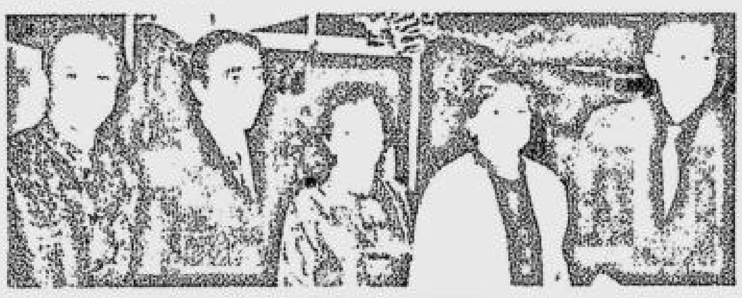


THE BUFFET centerpiece of different kinds of fruits is as much a piece of art as some of the teapots on display that it seems sacrilegious to eat it.



HENRY Tong, APCU vice president

SANTOS Co, director

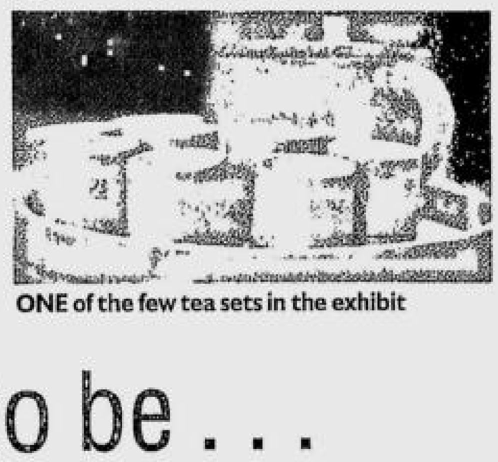


JESUS Cham, APCU second vice president; Lorenzo Ku, APCU chair; Popsie Aquino; Lynn R. S. Sunico and Consul Ceferino Benedicto

JOSIE Joya Baldovino, APCU adviser and immediate past president, and Rachy Cuna, vice chair for external affairs, who is wearing a 150-year-old Chinese costume.

APCU officers Lynn R. S. Sunico, president; Flor Santiago, treasurer; Cuna and guest Pinky Nelson

PROF. Aurora Lim of the University of the Philippines and Lorenzo Ku



ONE of the few tea sets in the exhibit

P.S. TRY YOUR Call Later...

Top 10 people you don't want to be . . .

From page E1

5 **WPD officials who keep presenting suspects to the media. What if they're wrong? Which part of 'Innocent until proven guilty' don't they understand?**

4 **Gretchen Barretto. Just because her rocks are bigger and shinier than yours.**

3 **George 'Dubya' Bush. You don't want to be hit by the rotten eggs and tomatoes the increasingly frustrated and probably not sharpshooting anti-war protesters throw at him.**

2 **Saddam Hussein. Can you imagine standing next to this target when the US sends a smart bomb his way?**

And the No. 1 person you want to avoid being caught in the same room with is . . .

1 **NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco. Can you believe this guy? His boss walks into the room and, like a peacock obsessed with photo op, he points an accusing finger at the Land Bank cashier who blew the whistle on fictitious accounts used to divert millions in taxes. And he won't apologize, either.**

Any nominations? Text, e-mail or write us.

Chilean violinists give Manilans . . .

PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao and Ulrike da Silva

CUBAN Ambassador and Mme. Ramon Alonso Medina

From page E4

Portuguese Ambassador **Joao da Silva** graced the occasion.

* * *

The Lebanese Consulate in Manila, headed by **Joseph Assad**, vice consul, hosted a dinner in honor of the Most Reverend Bishop **Bechara Rai**, who was in town for the Fourth World Meeting of Fannies. Bishop Rai headed the Lebanese delegation.

The dinner was attended by the Syrian archbishop of Iraq, **Basilios Casmoussa**, and the Lebanese Maronite Bishop, **Aad Abi Karam** of Australia, and the dean of the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Fr. **Taylor Styrand**.

* * *

Thanks, hellos and good-byes filled the air at the farewell party for outgoing Hotel InterContinental general manager, **Michael Herrmann**, who moved to Thailand as Six Continents Hotels' regional director for operations for the Philippines, Thailand and Cambodia. So it's not quite goodbye as Michael will still be dropping by once in a while to check on us. Taking over as GM is **Stefan Walter Voogel**, who brings with him a vast store of experience from his stints in London, Bali, Kathmandu and China.

PENNY Velasco Laperal

Among the guests were Cuban Ambassador and Mme. **Ramon Alonso Medina**, Portuguese Ambassador Joao and **Ulrike da Silva**, Peruvian Ambassador **Jorge Chavez Soto** with Second Secretary **Wilbert Haya**, **Stella** and **Nene Araneta**, former Solicitor General Raul **Goco**, the United States embassy's **Bill Gannon** and **John Cooper**, who thoroughly enjoyed the rousing musical numbers of singer-actor **Calvin Millado** and **Janet Basco**.

QATAR Ambassador Saleh Ibrahim Al Kuwari, Lebanese Vice Consul Joseph Assad, Most Reverend Bishop Bechara Rai, businessman Joe Bechara and Philip Morris president George Farah

JENNIFER Peña and Gemma Cruz Araneta

MME. Lena Hakansson and French Ambassador Renee Veyret

INTERCON GM Stefan Voogel and Carmela Bocanegra, director for sales and marketing

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RED Salon is a new salon chain conceived by a group of hairdressing practitioners with more than 30 years experience in the business. Red Salon's Technical & Creative Director is Stephan Zenz, a Swiss stylist, platform artist and trainor who is a product of the Vidal Sassoon Academy in London and who has conducted numerous hairdressing seminars and shows in various countries for the international hair care company, Wella.

RED Salon's slogan, "A Passion for Hair", expresses the salon's commitment to understanding and satisfying the needs of clients by introducing the latest hairstyle and coloring trends and delivering quality customer service in a friendly, inviting and relaxed atmosphere. Red Salon believes that professionalism, creativity and customer service are essential to creating a unique salon experience – the Red Salon experience.

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BETH Day Romulo, Consul Evie Costa, Ambassador Lynam, Tessie Luz and Letty Syquia

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Chilean violinists give Manilans a memorable evening

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

DESPITE her recent bereavement, Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** welcomed everyone to the Amati Music Festival sponsored by her embassy, which was planned months ago. **Penny Velasco Laperal** opened the doors of her elegant tropical residence that is surrounded by greenery and with architecture reminiscent of Balinese homes, but very Filipino in spirit to members of the diplomatic corps and friends.

It was a memorable evening. Works by Beethoven, Lizst and Rachmaninov were performed by Chilean violinist **Alejandro Mendoza** and his equally acclaimed violinist wife, **Si-Nae Shim**, pianist **Geraldine Gonzalez**, cellist **Renato Lucas** and pianist **Jovianney Emmanuel Cruz**, the most internationally awarded Filipino concert pianist. The evening would make you wish there were more of them.

* * *

The Foundation of Lay Education on Heart Disease held its third national annual convention on preventive cardiology at the Carlos Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Plaza. Guest speaker Dr. **Antonio Rui Leal** of Portugal spoke on "Preventive Cardiology: Current Status and Future Actions."

CHILEAN/ E3

JOVIANNEY Cruz and Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam

CHILEAN violinist Alejandro Mendoza

BELGIAN Ambassador and Mme. Chris Tanghe

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Make love (and wear Cartier), not war

By Tessa Prieto Valdes

IF THERE is one thing from the '70s that we all should be doing—and I am not referring to drugs—it is to "make love, not war." In the middle of the U.N. deliberation on an issue that may spark the Third World War, we should all do our share in spreading joy and peace instead of focusing on misery.

My yoga instructor, **Bela Lipat**, has taught me a chant from a Buddhist text which goes, "As we think and act, so our world becomes" (from the Dhammapadda).

The class ends with meditation where we share the merits of our practice for the benefit of ALL beings. Through our channeled thoughts, we send special energy to those who are in strife and great unhappiness. In Yogic belief, thought is energy, just as prayer is thought with healing.

We can very well submit to the horrible times we live in or do our part in improving the energies around. Hence, the importance of focusing on love.

And so timely with the season of St. Valentine and love, Cartier hosted "Love Event" at the Restaurant 12. The party aimed to reinforce the image of Cartier as an object of love and to take advantage of Valentine's to increase coverage and indirectly promote sales of the luxury item.

Temptation

Dennis, my husband, had an early golf tournament the next day so could not join me that evening. (Come to think of it, maybe that was deliberate on his part.) **Luzanne Manlapit**, Cartier brand manager, tempted me with the jewelry and watches in the well-lit showcases. The jewelry had evolved from very traditional designs to colored stones and pink gold set in geometric patterns, quite avant-garde and not exactly typical of Cartier.

As part of its image, and customer re-

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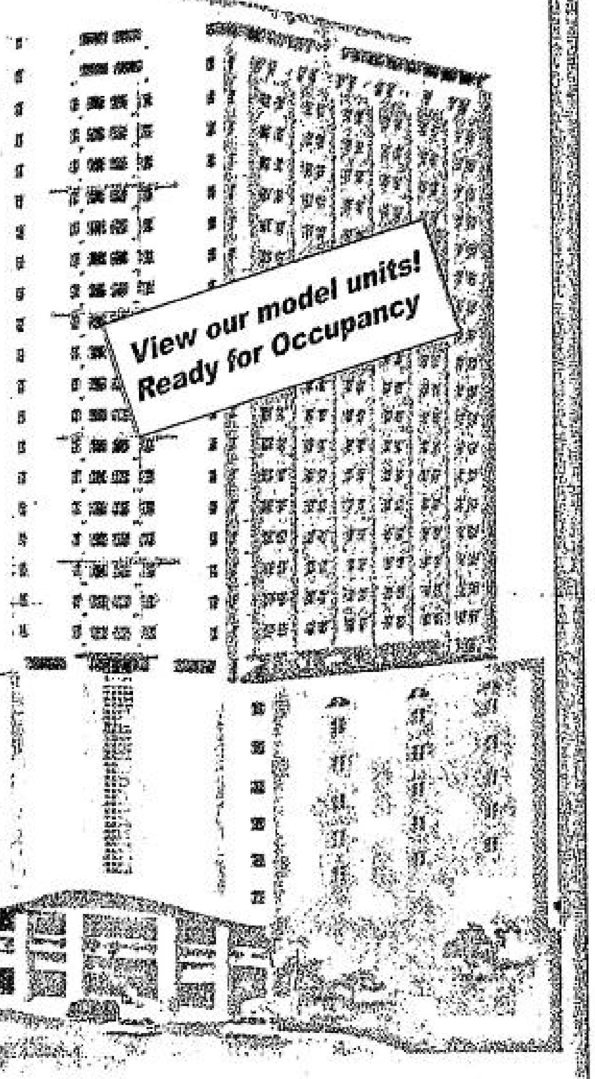
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Heny Sison

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THE ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES. This 20-day hands on Essential Cooking Series is our innovative way of teaching the basics of cooking and baking. This program is for anyone who wants to work towards becoming a professional chef. Classes begin on **April 11, 2003** and ends on **June 21, 2003.** Reservation for the next batch of **ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES (26 DAY)** for **August 2003** is also now open

Sign up now to secure your spot as the class fills up quickly. Tuition fee includes ingredients, manual, aprons, chef's jacket and chef's kit. For more information call 726-5316 & 412-7792 and look for Lirio or Rita.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

March 3 (Monday) 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. P1,500 BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison, *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing

March 3 (Monday) 2:00-6:00 p.m. P1,500 SUSHI CLASS by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants *Temaki-Zushi (Do-It Yourself Sushi Rolls), Bara-Zushi (Scattered Sushi), Inari-Zushi (Sushi Pockets), Futo-Maki Zushi (Thick-Rolled Sushi), Teka-Maki (Hand-rolled Tuna Sushi), Kappa-Maki (Sea Cucumber Sushi)

March 4 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. P1,500 BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison, *Chewy Moist Brownies, Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center and Butterscotch Bars

March 4 (Tuesday) 1:30-4:00 p.m. P1,500 COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by: Aileen Anastacio, Chef / Food Consultant & owner C'est Si Bon and Goodies and Sweets, Dean's List graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy *If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming and foaming. Recipes: Caffè Mocha, Caffè Americano, Caffè Latte, Cappuccino, Espresso Macchiato and Espresso Con Panna. Make fun toppings and garnishes and master the art of coffee making.

March 5 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. P2,500 PIZZA CLASS: WORKSHOP by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli, Master Pizzaiolo & Barista, Food Consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan Italy *In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato sauce base, white sauce base, preparation, setting up a pizza counter, know the ingredients and toppings. Recipes: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi, Pizza Vegetariana, La Gitana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti de Mare. **Demonstration with student participation.**

March 10 (Monday) 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. P2,500 FRESH PASTA by: Chef Giorgio Bucciarelli *There is simply no comparison between homemade hand-formed pasta and the store bought stuff. Homemade is not only tastier but a lot easier to make than you think. Learn how to make pasta egg dough, green spinach dough, black pasta dough, different kind of pastas: lasagna, green lasagne, ravioli, tortellini, ravioli & cannelloni, fettuccini green and black, stuffing's for ravioli & cannelloni. Recipes: Lasagne alla Bolognese, Lasagne al 4 Formaggi, Lasagne al pesto, Cannelloni alla Ricotta and Spinaci, Ravioli alla Boscaiola al Burro e Salvia, Tortellini al 4 Formaggi, alla Panna Prosciutto e Funghi, Green Fettuccine alla Montanara, Black Fettuccine al Frutti do Mare. Demonstration with student participation.

March 11 (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P1,500 CLASSIC FRENCH DESSERTS by: Chef Jill Sandique, Chef / Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Baked Caramel Custard, Tarte Tatin, Flaky Pie Dough, Sweet Pastry Dough, Quick Puff Pastry, Apple Tartlette, Clafoutis, Lemon Tart, Dark Chocolate Mousse Cake

March 12 (Wednesday) 1:00-5:00 p.m. P1,500 KOREAN COOKING I by: Chef Young Hee Kim Park, Chef / Owner of Sila Korean Restaurant and Food Consultant to various Korean Restaurants in Metro Manila
*Beef Bulgogi (Barbeque Tenderloin & Ordinary), Chicken Bulgogi (Barbeque Chicken thigh), Pork Bulgogi (Pork Liempo), Chap Chae (Noodle: Korean noodle, mushrooms, vegetable, beef or pork) Mi Yuk Guk (Soup: Seaweed, beef or tahong) & Four kinds appetizer (Oils, Peanut, Spinach & Bean sprouts)

March 17 (Monday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P2,500 BASIC FLOWER ARRANGEMENT by: Glenn Ramores, floral designer, owner Flowers of San Gregorio *Learn the theories, styles, trends, techniques, sourcing, flower care and maintenance, basic forms, arrangements and flowers for weddings. Lecture, demonstration and hands-on production. Bring a pair of scissors.

March 18 (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P2,500 DOUGHNUT WORKSHOP by: Jane Paredes, Chef / Food Consultant, owner of Cafe Cornucopia, trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Sugar Honey-Glazed, Caramel-Pecan, Chocolate Nut, Mango Glazed, Chocolate Bavarian, Double Chocolate, Blueberry Filled, Strawberry Filled, Apple Filled, Twist Cinnamon Sugar & Beignets (French Doughnuts)

March 19 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P1,700 COCINA MEXICANA I by: Heny Sison, *Explore and experience the authentic flavor of Mexican Cooking. Not all Mexican food are hot & spicy. Some are, and it goes beyond tacos, nachos & burritos. Taste the flavor of Crema de Flor de Calabaza (Cream of Squash Blossom Soup), Huevos Rancheros (Ranch Style Eggs), Mole Poblano, Arroz Rojo (Red Rice), Chiles En Nogada (Stuffed Battered Chiles in Walnut Sauce), Gorditas & Sopes, Tinga (Shredded Skirt Steak), Guacamole, Mexican Flan with Rompope & Platanos Machos Fritos (Fried Bananas with Cajeta Sauce). Bonus Recipe: How to make Corn & Flour Tortilla

March 24 (Monday) 1:00-5:00 p.m. P1,500 INDIAN COOKING CLASS by: Seba Saxena, instructor of Indian Cooking Class at Asian Cultural Center, Ashiya Japan and at Indian Home Kitchen. Student will learn the ingredients and cooking techniques unique to India. *Chicken Roll (a roll stuffed with mixture of chicken and Indian spices - a unique snack), Vegetable Curry (traditional curry with assorted vegetables in a tomato puree), Chana Masala (A dried preparation of gram/chick peas), Bhatura (Deep fried round shaped Naan made up of soft flour-perfect with Chana Masala), Mango Lassi (a refreshing mango and yogurt drink in traditional Indian style)

March 25 (Tuesday) 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P2,500 PATTIES & TURNOVERS *Jamaican Beef Patties, Cuban Empanada, Chicken Mushroom Turnover, Indian Samosas, Stromboli and Empanada Kaliskis

March 26 (Wednesday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. P2,500 TUTTO AL FORNO (BAKED ITALIAN DISHES) *Lasagna Al Pesto (Pesto Sauce Lasagna), Lasagna Al 4 Formaggi (Cheese Sauce Lasagna), Gnocchi Alla Romana (Gnocchi Roman Style), Timballo Di Riso (Baked Risotto in a Mold), Parmigiana Di Melanzane (Baked Eggplant with Parmesan & Tomato), Torta Di Patate (Baked Potatoes with Ham & Cheese), Timballo Di Maccheroni (Baked Macaroni in a Mold), Crespelle Con Ricotta E Spinaci (Thin Pancakes with Ricotta and Spinach)

March 31 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P1,500 CHINESE COOKING I by: Katherine C. Sison, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Pot Kai), caterer and an expert in Chinese Cuisine *Sweet Corn Soup with Quail Eggs, Shrimp with Vegetables, Crabs in Ginger and Onion Sauce, Pata Tim with Vegetables and Mango with Sago.

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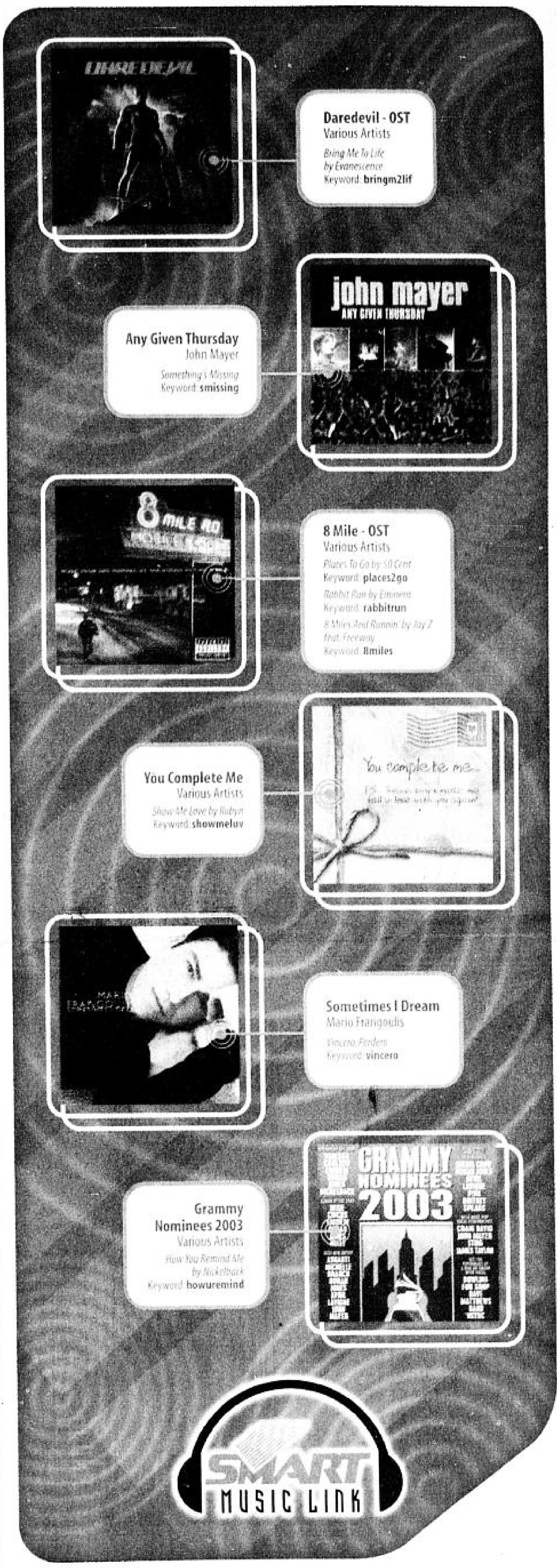

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4	This Is Me... Then	Jennifer Lopez	
5	Greatest Hits: An Audio Visual Anthology	Regine Velasquez	
6	Josh Groban	Josh Groban	
7	A Wonderful World	Tony Bennett & K.D. Lang	
8	It Had To Be You... The Great American Songbook	Rod Stewart	
9	You Had Me At Hello	Various Artists	missingu
10	Grammy Nominees 2003	Various Artists	howuremind
11	Lady Sings The Blues	Various Artists	
12	I Love The 70s	Various Artists	dannysong
13	Daredevil - OST	Various Artists	bringm2lif
14	Let Go	Avril Lavigne	imwithu
15	Room For Squares: Limited Edition	John Mayer	
16	Prelude: Best Of	Charlotte Church	
17	Any Given Thursday	John Mayer	smissing
18	Sometimes I Dream	Mario Frangoulis	vincero
19	Piolo	Piolo Pascual	
20	Heaven	Nina	
21	Duets	Barbra Streisand	
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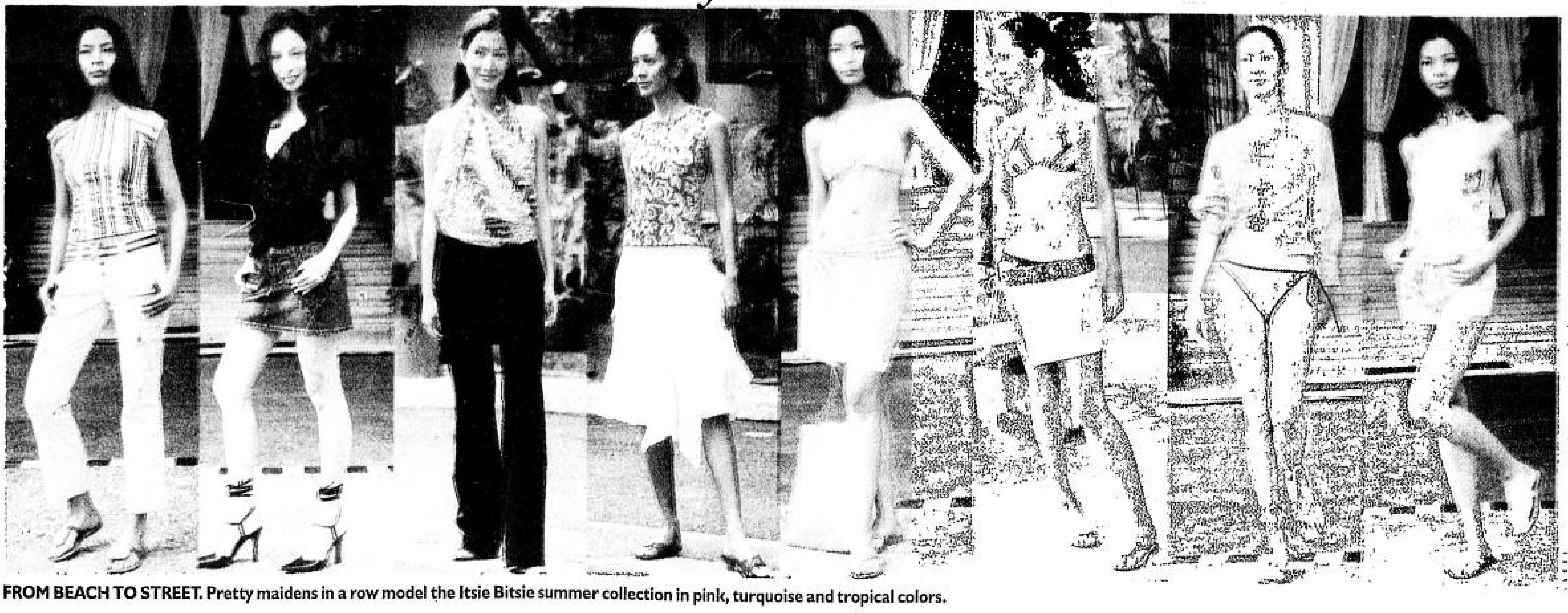


FROM BEACH TO STREET. Pretty maidens in a row model the Itsie Bitsie summer collection in pink, turquoise and tropical colors.

Pretty girls in paradise

Text and photos by Tim Yap

"SOL y Sombra" played on the speakers, the sun shone brightly and umbrellas were sprawled all over the garden of 1755 Adriatico, the home of hipsters' favorite boutique Itsie Bitsie.

The lush greens fronting the Spanish Mediterranean deco structure that is the Delgado home— a Malate landmark—was filled with activity. The weather was up—it was hot, to say the least.

But everyone was oh so cool, wearing lighter than light resort clothes reminiscent of a summer in St. Tropez, following the "like a lightly chilled drink" attire request made by Itsie Bitsie's soul mover, pretty Ines Delgado.

"Everything appeared so hazy, illuminated in dappled light; it was something very refreshing," said Ian Schrager's Pinoy counterpart, restaurateur DJ Montano, as he sipped his Itsie Bitsie slosh, a special concoction made of fresh watermelon juice and ginger.

Everyone had their shades on, as they feasted on a light lunch of chicken and asparagus with salad, porcini quiche with mesclun salad, and parmesan and prosciutto salad—as perfectly planned by Sala's Colin Mackay.

Ladies who lunch

On the table nearest the driveway where the models sashayed their Itsie Bitsies were Lizzie Zobel, Mia Borromeo, Crickette Tantoco and Leica Carpo—all ladies known not only for their career achievements but also for their savvy sense of style.

On another sat Doody Tuason, Doris Ho and Toni Parsons, captains of their industries. And yet another had Vicky Zubiri and Maricris Zobel, ageless beauties known for their youthful zest and panache.

The young jet set had cousins Geni Psinakis and Celine Lopez, Ria Romero, Barbie Pardo, Tina Tinio, Celine Gabriel and Bianca Zobel in attendance. The über stylish Preview girls—Pauline Suaco-Juan, Rorie Carlos and Isha Andaya—made a splash with their witty edge.

"Let's go to the store," whispered Doris as she did a French leave right after the fashion show, which was directed by Maria Parsons (who used to direct shows for Joyce boutique in Hong Kong).

Little did Doris know there would be a line there; like her, other guests had rushed to the store to buy the stuff that they had seen from the show. Some even had their drivers hold umbrellas for them as they waited for their turn.

Resort dressing

I don't blame them. Itsie Bitsie boutique's latest offering, named "Paradise Pretty—Summer 2003" showcased resort dressing that oozed with understated glamour and feminine fun! "It's a collection that goes from beach to street and day to night, effortlessly," said Ines.

Itsie Bitsie hits new levels of cool with the launching of its summer collection

You got it, Ines. As the models breezed in and out of our sight, one would conjure up sights in sunny Sao Paolo, with tanned bodies parading in fine cotton tunics and juicy hued tees paired with denim or cargo pants for that feel of easy glamour. Then again, we don't need to look that far, for as we all know, ours is a country rich in tropicana. Let the sunshine in!

Impressive is Ines' eye for detail. This was evident from the collection to the show, down to the drinks, even the linen used for the tables. "I wanted to show the casual elegance of ladies walking around Capri—so chic!" said Ines.

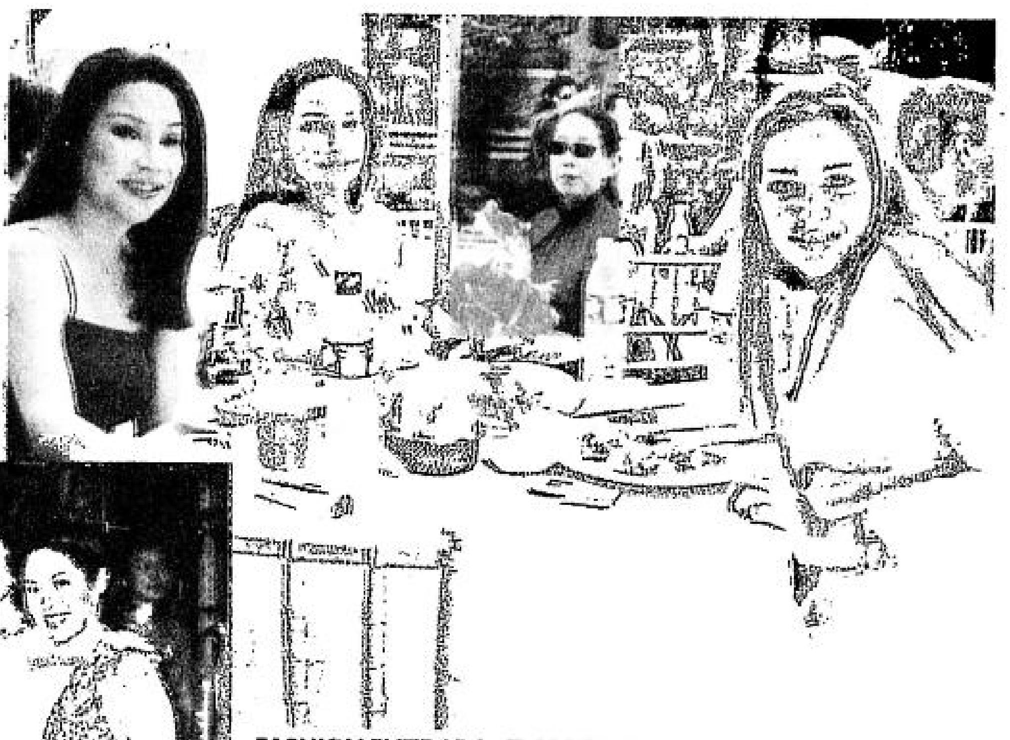
Shu Uemura's avant-garde master Xeng Zulueta showered the models with a healthy sun-kissed dewy hue—rich golds and browns with a streak of red mascara—you'd think all the models went tanning right before the show.

"The clothes are for thin, young women, so I'll just go for the accessories!" said Tessie Prieto-Valdes, who sat beside Anton San Diego.

But there was a lot to choose from, from Zimmerman baby totes to Graham Kandiah sarongs to Balmani slippers and more!

"More" is the operative word because Ines has plans to beef up the 27 brands (ranging from classic to edgy) in the store by adding such names as Catherine Malandrino, Calypso, Christina Lehr, Jill Stuart, Shona Joy, What Comes Around Goes Around and Vanessa Bruno this March.

More labels to choose from at Itsie Bitsie soon? Now that will be paradise.



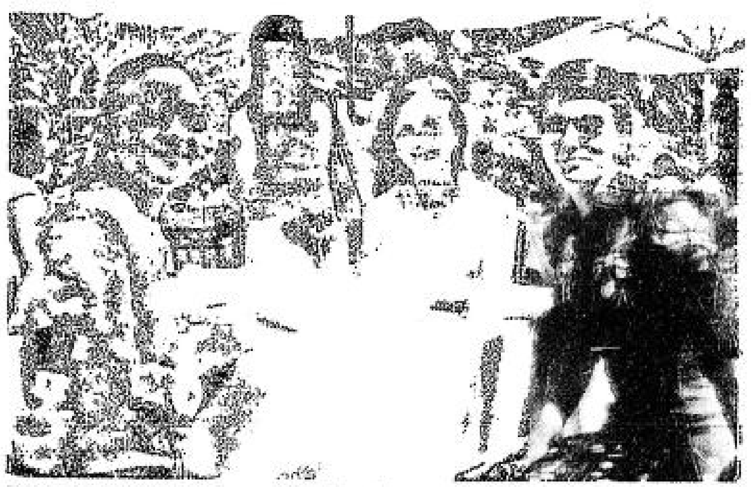
FASHION ELITE. Vicky Zubiri, Maricris Zobel, Doris Ho and Bianca Zobel

TEAM EFFORT. Shu Uemura's Tina Tinio and Xeng Zulueta with Ines Delgado, Maria Parsons and the models

A-TEAM. Maria Parsons and Ines Delgado

ITSIE BITSIE SET. Nafsika Drossou and Mikael Grennow

RESORT WEAR. Isabel Roces in a Catherine Malandrino natural embroidered low V-neck top, Paper Denim and Cloth Low 5 flare jeans



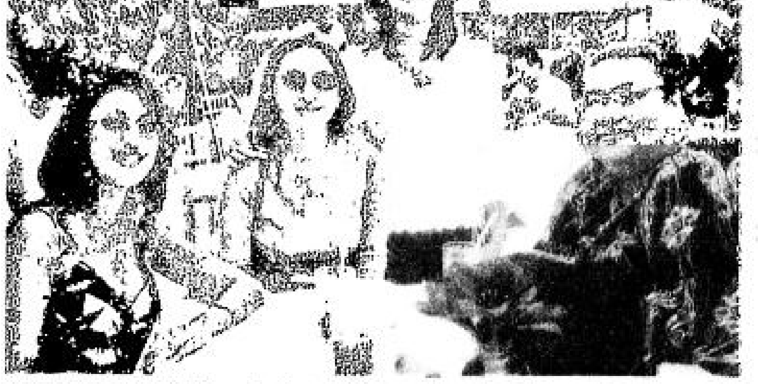
FRONT ROW. Mia Borromeo, Ines Borromeo and Lizzie Zobel

LADIES WHO LUNCH. Lia Delgado-Infante, Teres Valdes, Lourdes Valdes and Luli Delgado

CHILL FACTOR. Ines with (seated, from left) Bengy Toda, Max Kienley and wife Zelda

AFTER PARTY. Tina Tinio, the author, Leica Carpo, Celine Gabriel and Xeng Zulueta

SUNNY SET. Coy Holmes, Maita Gomez, Angel Ramos, Toni Parsons and Chiqui Prieto



A-LIST. Ines with (from left) Crickette Tantoco, Monique Toda and Malu Fernandez

LUZANNE Manlapit, Christophe Daine, Elbert Cuenca and Leica Carpo

The luxury
watch
becomes
an object
of love
in a world
drifting
to war

PAOLO Prieto, Erich Edralin and Angelo Villanueva

Make love (and wear Cartier), not war

From page F1

lations building, Cartier held this intimate event. And a truly intimate party it was, with red velvet cushions, roses on clear tables, wine and chill-out sounds by **DJ Joel Tantoco.**

The evening before was also a Cartier dinner at Cheval Blance, hosted that time by the Philippine Tatler. Its editor **Anton San Diego** invited **Fabrice Poch**, retail director for Cartier Far East, and **Christophe Daine**, Cartier area manager, to meet Manila's Four Loveliest—**Claudia Bermudez, Pops Fernandez, Mons Tantoco**, and myself. Of course, those were just Anton's "four loveliest" for the night.

The scrumptious dinner was prepared by chef **Romine** and chef **Thomas Figovc. Joy Wassmer**, director of communications of Makati Shangri-La Hotel, was at my table to see if my special vegetarian menu was in order.

Although I was juggling two events that evening, in the same hotel at least, I was able

MAKE/ F4

SUSING Pineda and Mia Trinidad

MALU Gamboa and Liza Cuenca

GEORGE Hashim, Pepper Teehankee and James Beltran

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

G	O	N	G	■	A	C	M	E	■	J	E	N	N	A	■	C	O	T	T	A
A	L	O	E	■	R	O	I	L	■	A	M	O	O	N	■	H	I	R	E	D
B	A	R	N	A	C	L	E	S	■	I	U	S	E	D	T	O	L	I	V	E
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N	E	A	■	■	A	L	M	A	■	C	A	P	O	■	■	A	L	A	S	■
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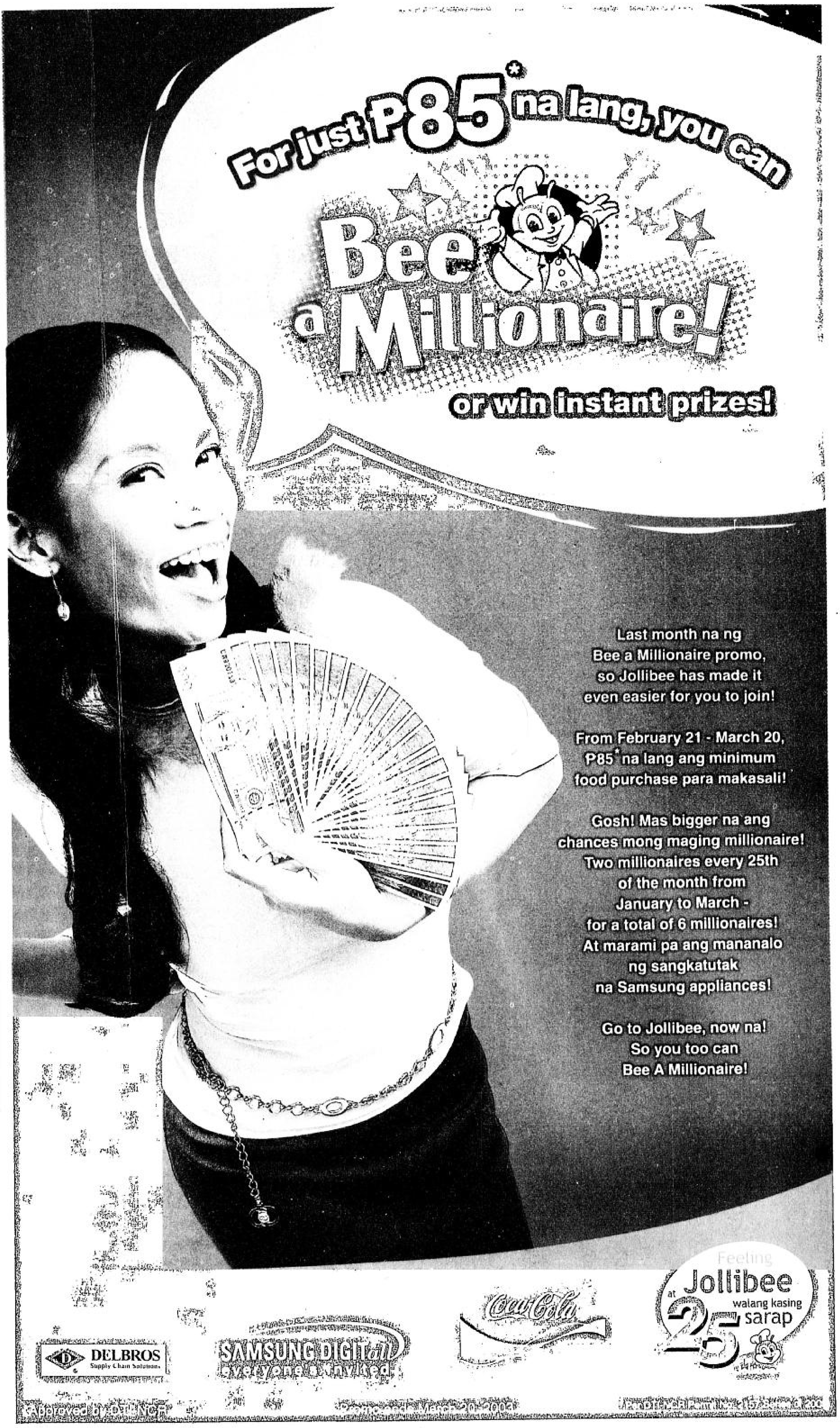


Last month na ng
Bee a Millionaire promo,
so Jollibee has made it
even easier for you to join!

From February 21 - March 20,
P85* na lang ang minimum
food purchase para makasali!

Gosh! Mas bigger na ang
chances mong maging millionaire!
Two millionaires every 25th
of the month from
January to March -
for a total of 6 millionaires!
At marami pa ang mananalo
ng sangkatutak
na Samsung appliances!

Go to Jollibee, now na!
So you too can
Bee A Millionaire!

*Approved by DTI-NCR [illegible] March 20, 2003 [illegible]

CHEVAL Blance dinner hosted by the Philippine Tatler for the Cartier group

BEAUTY surrounded by Cartier men. Claudia Bermudez between Cartier area manager Christophe Daine and retail director for Cartier Far East Fabrice Poch

Make love (and wear Cartier), not war

From page F3

to enjoy the meal and conversation.

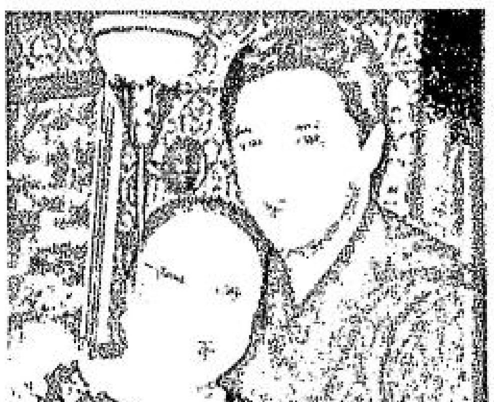
Tatler's **Irene M. Francisco** and Cartier's **Marilen T. Valbuena** enjoyed the interesting conversation. Christophe D. was quick to point out that I was not a "Virgo virgin" when I said I was born in September. There must have been some miscommunication since we were seated at opposite ends of the table.

But miscommunication and all, it was all in the name of love. Cartier indeed created an impression of being the ultimate gift of love.

Malu Gamboa was wearing her Cartier Diabolo watch that evening, which she gifted herself when she turned 30. If Dennis does not get the hint when I turn 40, I will follow Malu's footsteps.

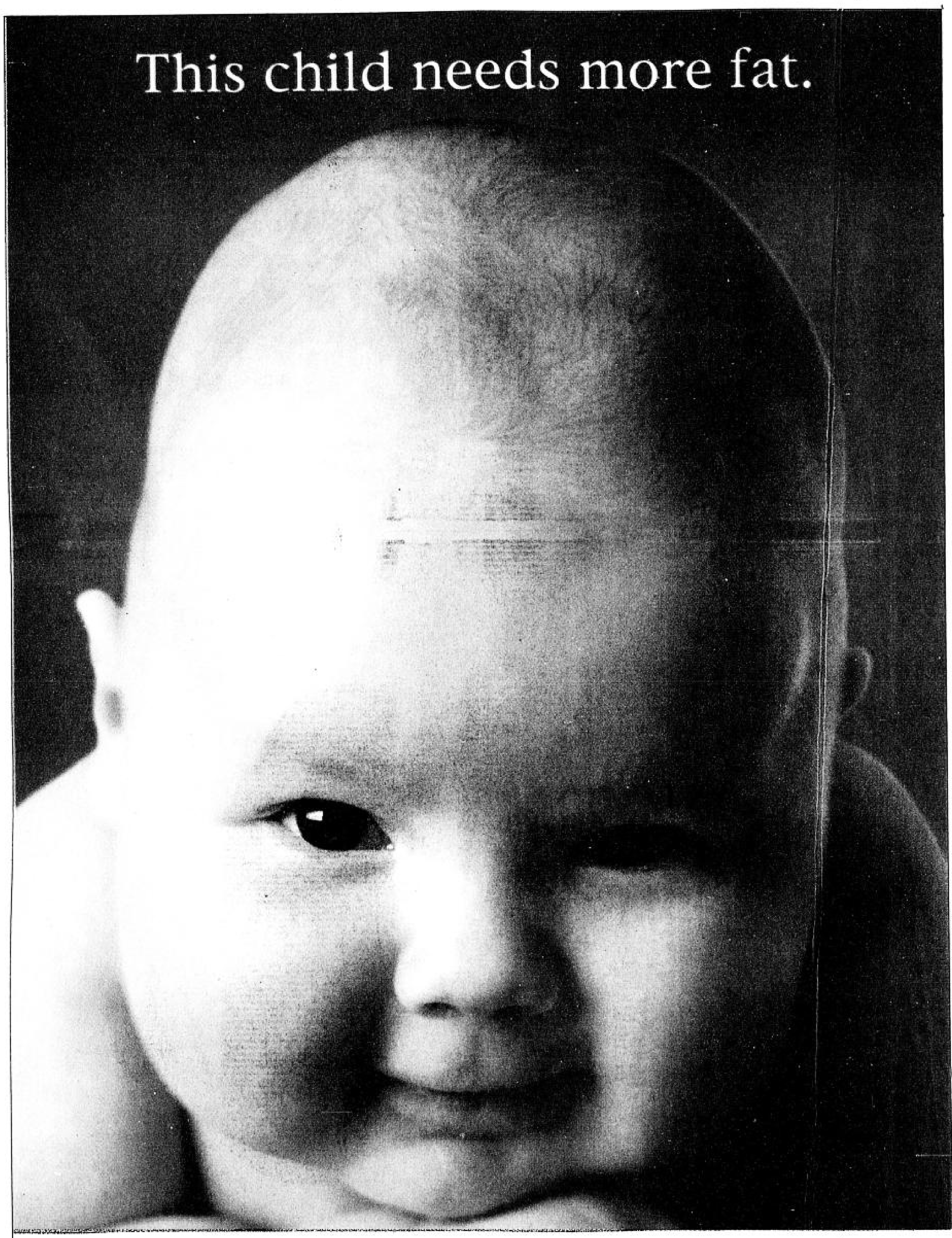
MONS R. Tantoco with Philippine Tatler editor-in-chief Anton San Diego

ROSARIO Herrera, Pepper Teehankee and Tina Herrera



CARTIER director for marketing Marilen T. Valbuena with dashing hubby Victor

STYLISH doctor Randy Francisco with his wife, Philippine Tatler publisher Irene


This child needs more fat.

He needs Brain Lipids.

He may be fat, but his brain could be malnourished. Your baby needs good-quality fats (also known as lipids) for brain development especially from 0-3 years, when the brain is growing rapidly. Fat is the main structural component, as it makes up 60% of the brain. It also provides insulation for brain cells, enabling them to carry messages faster and help the brain operate 100 times better,* making your baby smarter.

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Building Brighter Brains.

Introducing Brain Lipids-- Unilab Nutritionals' breakthrough formula for brighter babies!

Brain Lipids combines all of nature's best-quality fats into one powerful fat blend specifically designed for brain development. Brain Lipids provides for a fatty acid profile that encourages brain cell growth and brain cell multiplication, thus promoting faster learning and brain growth.

So the next time you see a fat baby, think of his brain. And always remember, a fat body doesn't necessarily mean a healthy brain.

This information is brought to you by:
NUTRIUNLAB

www.superkids.com/aweb/pages/features/early1/early1/shtml, Learning Windows and the Child's Brain by Amy Markezich, Stanford University,2003

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2003
PHILIP AILY INQUIRER
For feedback, text us at (0919)880-33-54 or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday LIFESTY
Weddings & Engagements

NEWLYWEDS Mark and Stephanie laugh at a humorous speech

You look at the bride who is your twin sister and you get an inkling of how you'll look on your wedding day

this WEEK @ SM SUPERMALLS
Color it Red with Cookie Chua
February 23
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
4pm
Activity Center

FRONDOSO-VILLARAZA NUPTIALS

The beautiful *bride* looked like me

By Angelique Villaraza
Contributor

It was bizarre to see my twin sister in a wedding dress. I saw how I would look on my own wedding day.

Having an identical twin has its egotistical advantages. For example, paying my sister a compliment was an indirect way of complimenting myself. If I said she was the most beautiful bride I had ever seen, that would also mean I was the second most beautiful person at the event. If I wore a white gown, then it would have been a very close tie.

My twin sister Stephanie's wedding to Mark Frondoso was a riot of bright colors. Having long dreamed of a garden wedding, Steph decided to transform the Westin Philippine Plaza ballroom into a cozy garden bathed in warm light.

Tall silver candelabras were nestled among floral arrangements—all of them different—by Toni Parsons.

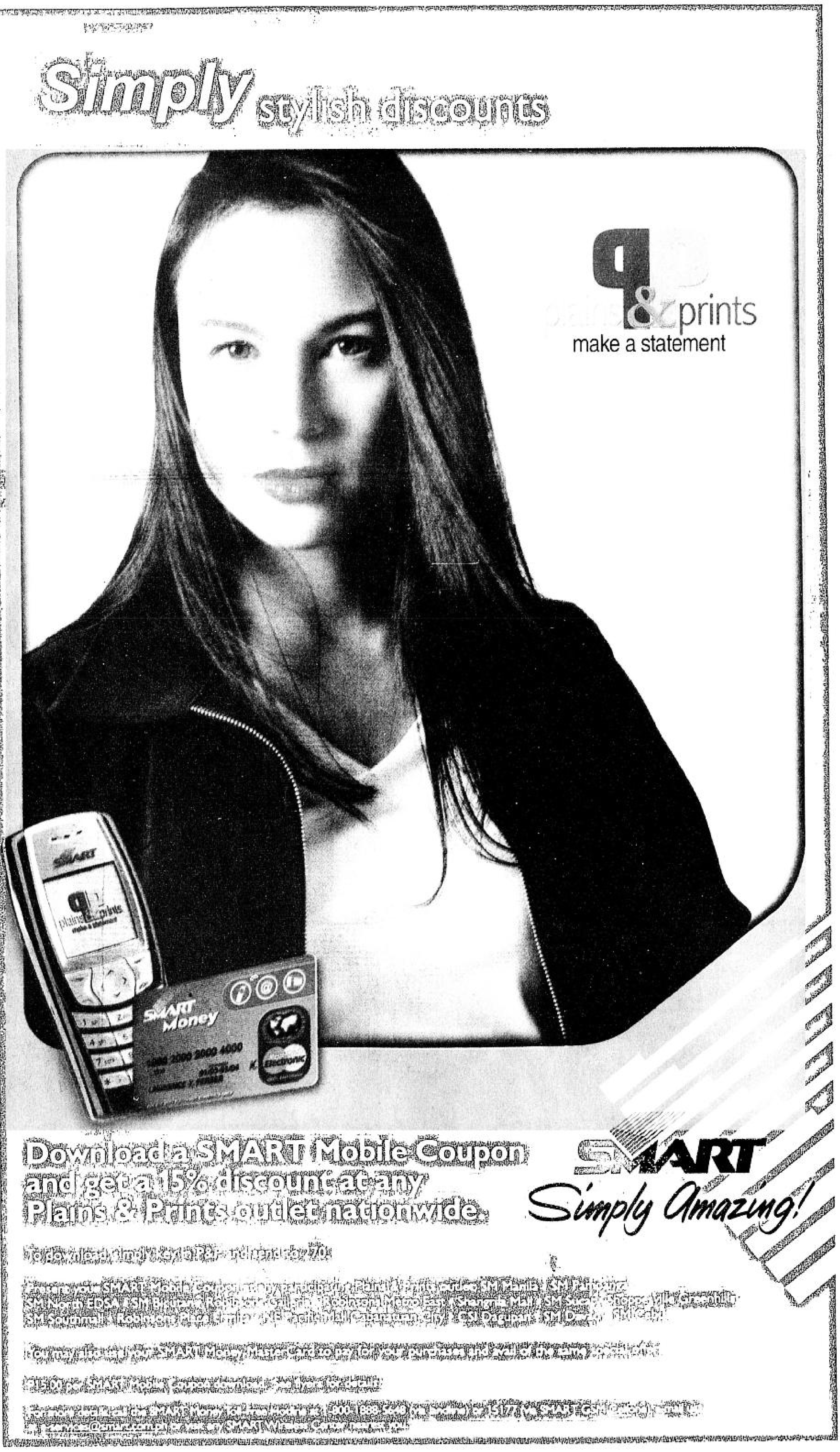
The bridal entourage wore mauve and chartreuse gowns by Inno Sotto. Our sister Abigail and I were maids of honor. Steph was radiant in a romantic Sotto design with tiny floral detailing and delicate lace.

Guests included Luli Macapagal Arroyo (representing her mother, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who was principal sponsor) and her siblings, Mikey with wife Angela, and Dato. Senator Frank Drilon, House Speaker Joe de Venecia and wife Gina, Senator Loren Legarda, Secretary Avelino Cruz, Jr., Justice Antonio Carpio, Gretchen Cojuangco, Rosemarie Arenas, Therese Coronel Santos and son Ritchie, Raymond and Mary Rose Moreno with their children, Cheche Lazaro, and architect Antonio Turalba.

Also there were Leica Carpo, Tim Yap, Tina Tinio, Ricky Delgado, Grace Barbers Baja and Iliac Diaz, the groom's friends from Singa-

THE BEAUTIFUL/ G2

WEDDING cake by Heny Sison is crammed with pink roses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Download a SMART Mobile Coupon and get a 15% discount at any Plains & Prints outlet nationwide.
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THE BRIDAL entourage in chartreuse gowns by Inno Sotto (from left) Beverly Bollozos, Eleanor Puyat, Jennifer Bueno, Krisy Besa, bride Stephanie, Abigail Villaraza, Jaimee Chua, Grace Barbers Baja and bride's twin sister Angelique Villaraza

The beautiful *bride* looked like me

STEPHANIE with her nieces Tina and Arlanna Villaraza

From page G1

pore, Laura Baja and Joey Ledesma, the couple's friends James Ileto, Jennifer Bueno, Krissy Besa, Kavi Golamco and Beverly Bollozos.

The reception was hosted by our parents, lawyer Pancho and Sally Villaraza and the groom's parents, Manuel and Rosemarie Frondoso.

Even before birth

Mark and Steph chose the Aman Puri Resort in Phuket, Thailand for their honeymoon destination. They will live in Singapore, where the groom is based.

When they first told me they were getting married, I wondered, "How do I say goodbye to a person I had been with even before birth?"

The saying "You are born alone and you die alone" does not apply to Steph and me. We were born together. That's why my instinct for her is very strong. I "fought" Steph's past suitors because my instincts told me they were wrong for her.

Mark was her only suitor that I had no disagreements with. My instincts told me he was good for Steph. But should he hurt my twin sister, I'll be on his case in a flash, even if they're an ocean away.

I didn't need to tell Steph that among the 800 guests at her wedding reception, I would miss her most. She knew without my saying so.

JOSE Luis and Tanya Moreno, Pancho and Sally Villaraza, Mary Rose, Anna Martha and Raymond Moreno

STEPHANIE'S former classmates at Woodrose

THE GROOM'S parents, Manuel and Rosemarie Frondoso, make a toast.

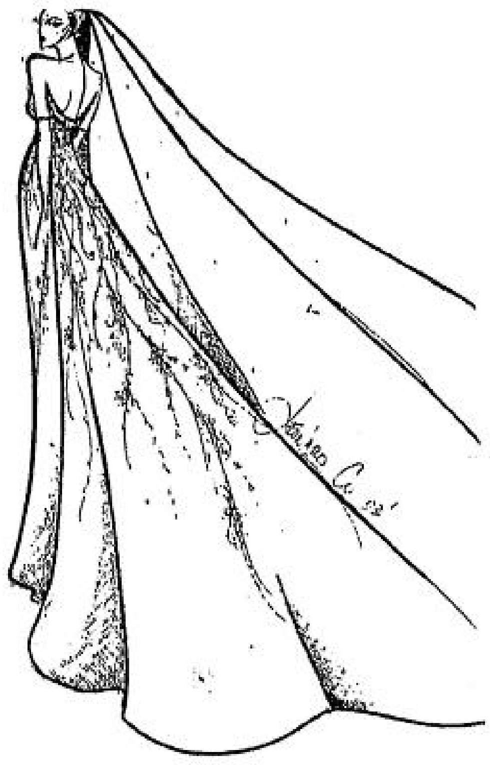
PANCHO Villaraza with Luli Arroyo

PETER Rodriguez, former Gov. Antonio Leviste, Stephanie and Mark, and Sen. Loren Legarda

THE COUPLE with their principal sponsors

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



TAN-YU

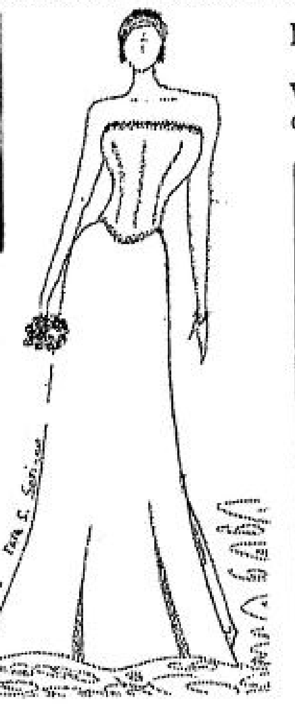
Olivia Yu, daughter of **Oscar** and **Susan Yu**, will wed today **Marvin Tan**, son of **Jesus** and **Lydia Tan**, at Century Park Hotel.

The bride will wear a white organdy fully embroidered pastel salmon peach gown with touches of spring colors adorned with pearl sequin and Swarovski stones designed by **Leonard Co**

JOSEF-VELASQUEZ

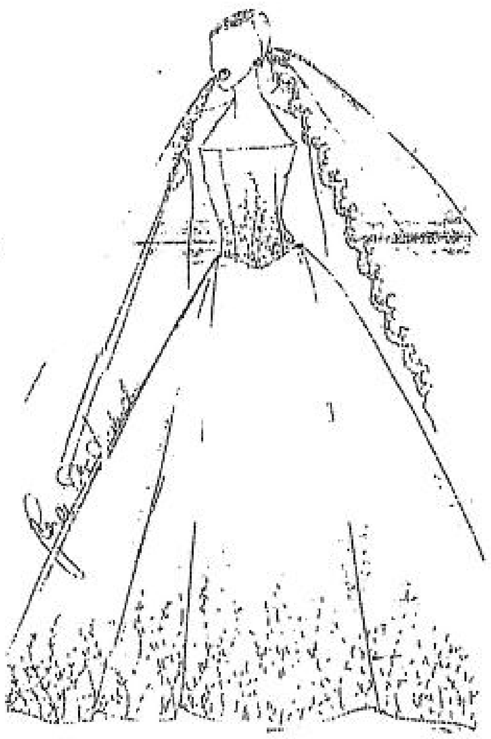
Johann Millado Josef, son of **Amado** and **Angelina Josef**, recently wed **Socorro Resuello Velasquez**, daughter of **Manuel** and **Antolina Velasquez**, at the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church, España, Manila. Reception followed at the Puerta Real Gardens, Intramuros.

Fred Quimat designed a white duchess satin bridal gown embellished with glass and cut beads with seed pearls. Josiah's Catering Inc.. Photography was by **Nonoy Duran**.



LOTILLA-PERTIERRA

Raquel M. Pertierra, daughter of **Joaquin** and **Christine Montenegro Pertierra**, will tie the knot with **Christian S. Lotilla**, son of retired Capt. **Bert Lotilla** and **Kate Sulse**, on March 8 the Alabang New Life Christian Center in Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa City. It will be officiated by Pastor **Gerald Holloway**. Reception will follow at the Lotillas' residence on Sarangani Street, Ayala Alabang Village.



LLAMADO-GREGORIO

Dr. **Liwayway Eranes Gregorio** of Carolina, Looc, Romblon and Parañaque will exchange vows with **Bonifacio Nuestra Llamado** of Jacksonville, Florida, on April 12 at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Church. Reception will follow at the Conservatory of the Peninsula Manila.

The bride will wear a **Renée Salud** original adorned with different shades of pearls, as well as ecru and off-white crystals.

ESCOTO-LEJARDE

Rufino S. Escoto Jr., son of the late **Rufino** and **Lovina Escoto**, recently tied the knot with **Gladys M. Lejarde**, daughter of **Augusto** and **Narcisa Lejarde**, at the San Sebastian Basilica. Reception followed at the Maynila Ballroom of Manila Hotel.

The bride's Swarovski crystal-studded matte gold dress and matching gold tulle veil were created by **Richard Papa**. **Doddie Roman** was wedding director. The bride's brother, **Gary Lejarde**, created a website for the wedding.

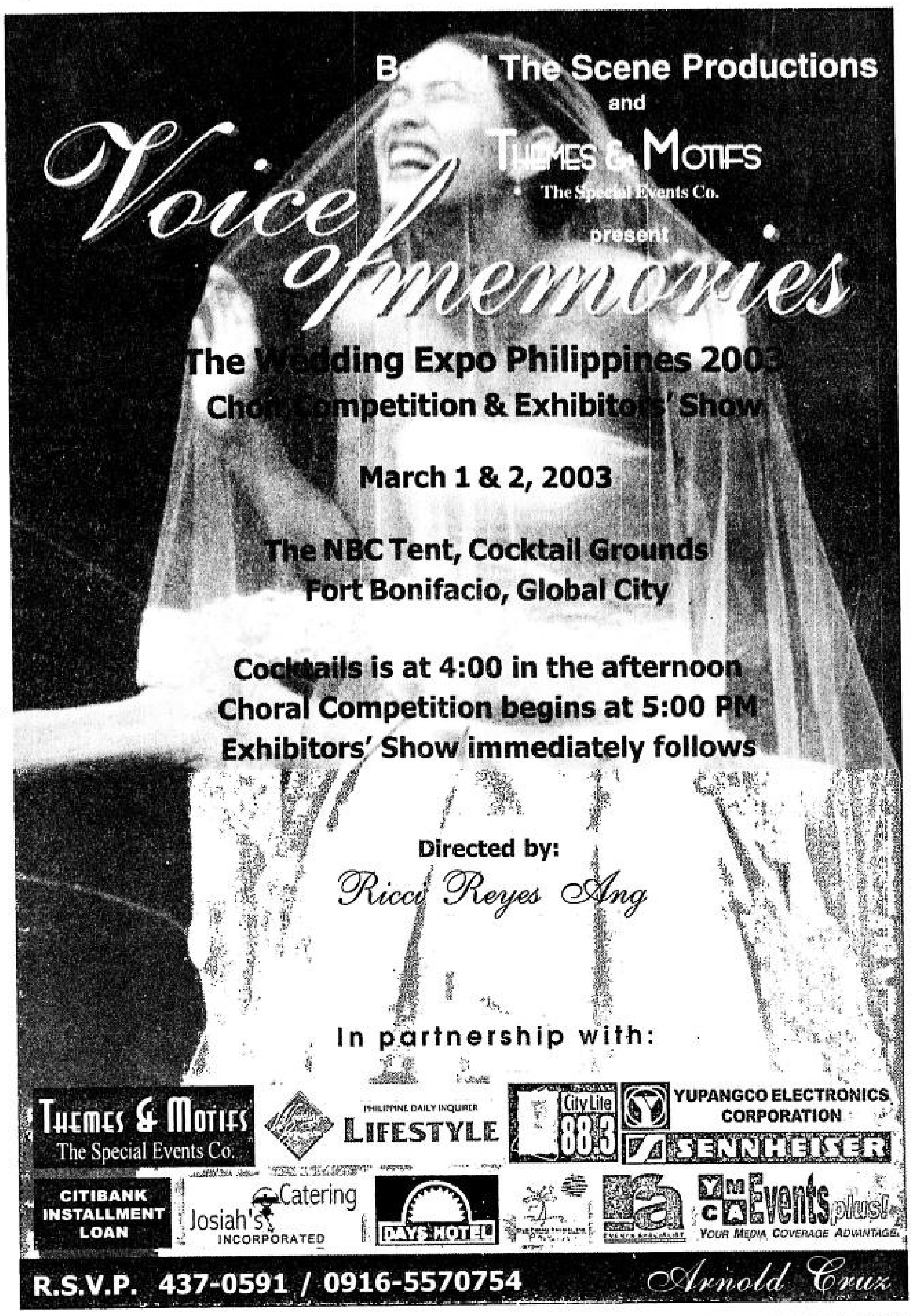
SANTIAGO-ALENTAJAN

Arpee Santiago, son of Mr. and Ms **Reynaldo Santiago**, tied the knot with **Nina Alentajan**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Bonifacio Alentajan**, on Feb. 8 at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat in Manila.

PACOY DEBUT

Elaine J. Pacoy, daughter of **Arthur** and **Victoria Pacoy**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 8 at the Magnetic Jones Restaurant, Ecoland, Davao City.

Elaine, a nursing sophomore at San Pedro College, will be escorted by **John Paul Ang**. **Tata Soriano** designed the debutante's gown.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March 1 & 2, 2003

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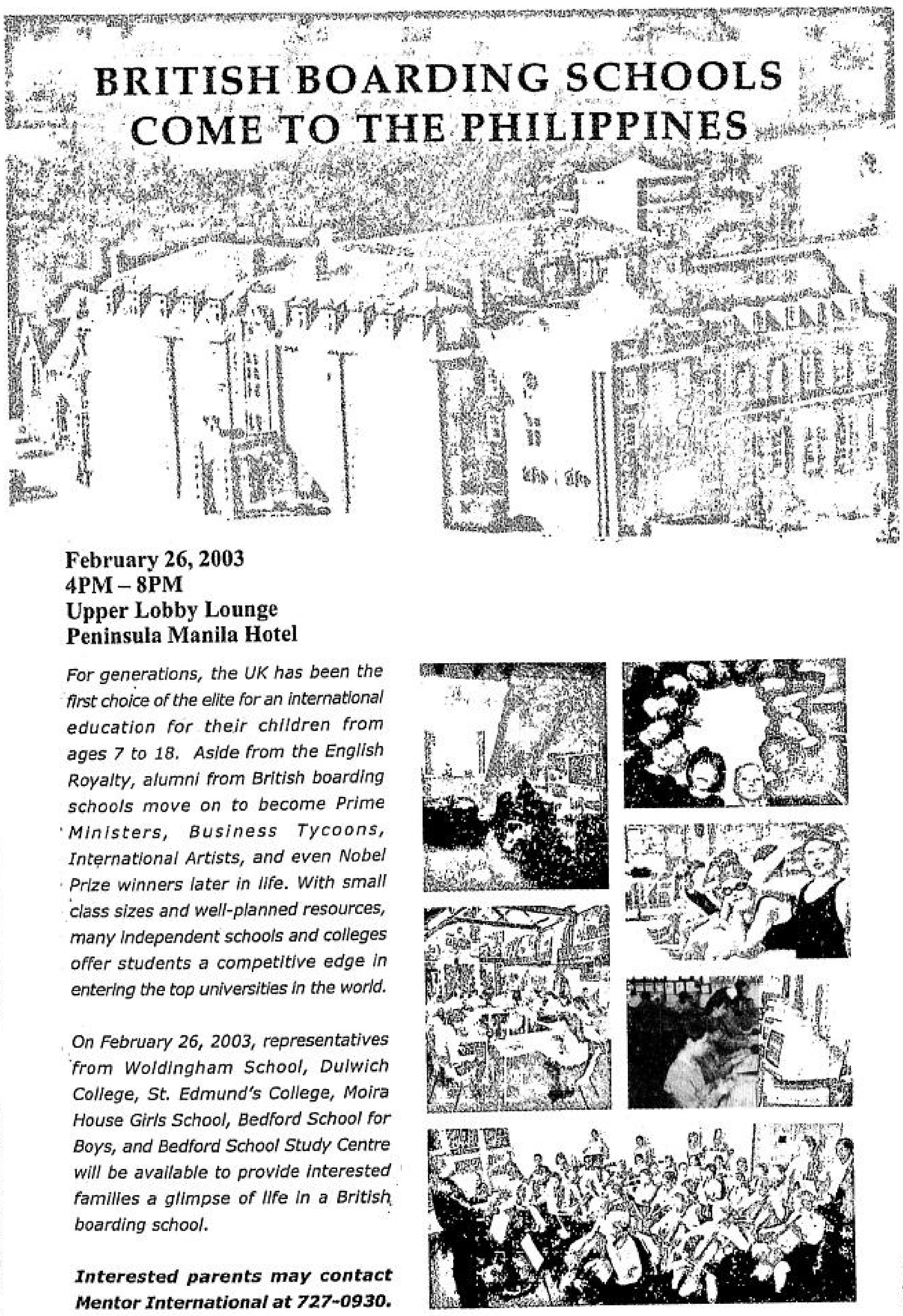
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February 26, 2003
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City/Municipality ______ ZIP Code ______ **OFFICE PHONE:** ______

COMPANY OR SCHOOL: ______ **OCCUPATION:** ______

SUN
CELLULAR

JOB Market

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2003
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(for production and maintenance)

- Male/Female, at least 21-30 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive
- Knowledge in machine operation for wooden product

Pollution Control Officer

(urgent hiring)

- Male, between 21 to 30 years of age
- BS degree in Engineering Chemical, Mechanical, or Environmental
- Knowledge in the implementation of ISO standard 14000
- With experience in reporting to DENR (pollution control and waste management)
- Excellent communication skills
- Must be computer literate (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and basic AutoCAD

Company Nurse

- Graduate of BS Nursing
- Female, between 20-27 years old
- Experience in industrial setting is an advantage
- People oriented and can work on extended hours

Sanitary Engineer

- Single, Male or Female, at least 21-30 years old
- Must be Safety/Officer/Sanitary Engineer
- DOLE accreditation
- Must have at least 2 years in supervisory experienced
- Must have a Nutrition-related experienced
- Must provide a program for Occupational Health and Safety in complying with DOLE-BWC Standards

Research & Development (ASV)

- Graduate of Engineering or Architecture
- Male/Female, between 20-27 years of age
- With at least 6 months of of supervisory experience
- With at least 6 months of experience
- Basic knowledge in AutoCAD
- Can operate windows based program

Office Staff

- Male/Female, between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of Mass Com, Marketing or Computer Science
- With pleasing personality
- With experience as Export/Import Officer
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive
- With experience in office work, people oriented
- Can work on extended hours

Truck Head Driver

(urgent hiring)

- Male, at least 30 up to 40 years old
- High School or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic)
- Experience in Driving Truck Head
- Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic
- With professional Driver's License (R Code - 6 & 3, 2, 1)

Forklift Operator

(urgent hiring)

- At least High School / Vocational / College Level
- Male, be 20-27 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

Maintenance Staff

(urgent hiring)

- Male, between 20-27 years old
- Vocational or College graduate
- At least 1 year experience as electrician, mechanic, welder
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- Must be familiar in manufacturing machine trouble
- Knowledge in compressor repair
- Knowledge in AVR control

Production Operator

(urgent hiring)

- High School, Vocational or College Level
- Female, between 18-27 (5'0) in height, Male, 20-27 years old (5'2) in height
- Well built and able body
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- Preferably residing within Cavite Area

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- Fluent in English, good business writing and course skills
- Proficient in use of e-mail with strong typing skills; knowledgeable in the use of MS Office Applications; basic knowledge of web technology and the Internet
- Works well under pressure to resolve issues, achieve goals and objectives
- Excellent working attitude, flexible and has the ability to perform multi-tasks

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- Fluent in English, good business writing and course skills
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- Works well under pressure to resolve issues, achieve goals and objectives
- Excellent working attitude, flexible and has the ability to perform multi-tasks
- We are also in need of SPANISH CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS

200 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPS FOR FINANCE - (CSR-FINANCE)

- Graduates of Accounting, Economics, Financial Management and other business-related courses
- Experience in Stock Brokerage; Portfolio Management and Financial Services would be an advantage
- Excellent reading comprehension skills, problem solving and data analysis skills
- Has the ability to absorb and utilize complex information
- Has initiative, an eye for detail and excellent customer service skills
- Basic knowledge of web technology, the Internet and MS Office Applications
- Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills

500 TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEERS (TSE)

- Graduates of any college course preferably Computer Science,Computer, Engineering or any computer-related courses
- Knowledgeable in basic hardware and software troubleshooting and networking
- Familiar with the different Operating Systems (Windows, Linux, Macintosh)
- Excellent reading comprehension skills, problem solving and data analysis skills
- Has the ability to absorb and utilize complex information
- Has initiative, an eye for detail and excellent customer service skills
- Basic knowledge of web technology and the Internet
- Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills

SYSTEMS ANALYST/SOFTWARE ENGINEERS (SA/SE)

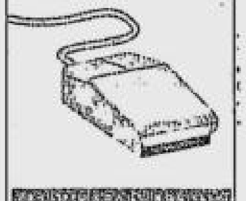
- Graduates of any 4 year course, Computer Science, MIS or it's equivalent
- Minimum of 2 years experience in system development and analysis
- In-depth knowledge and proficiency in C++, ASP, VBScript, Javascript, HTML, DHTML, ADO, OLEDB, XML, Visual Basic and COM
- Knowledgeable in data warehousing and business intelligence software, an advantage
- Hands-on experience in Operating Systems, Web Servers and SQL Servers
- Pro-active, team player and willing to work on long hours, as required

100 TELEMARKETERS (TM)

- Graduates of any college course
- Fluent in English, good business writing and course skills
- Proficient in use of e-mail with strong typing skills; knowledgeable in the use of MS Office Applications; basic knowledge of web technology and the Internet
- Works well under pressure to resolve issues, achieve goals and objectives
- Excellent working attitude, flexible and has the ability to perform multi-tasks
- Sales experience would be an advantage

As these are URGENT position vacancies, qualified applicants are requested to send their updated CV's to: SYKES ASIA, INC., 28F Robinson's Summit Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City or e-mail these to hrd@man.ph.sykes.com on or March 3, 2003. Highly competitive compensation package and Local/Regional Training await those who will be accepted. Visit http://www.sykes.com for more information about the Company.

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.



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CLC

CLC Marketing Ventures Corp., leader in metal base furniture manufacturing and distribution urgently needs the following:

Product Managers for Infant / Home / Office

- not over 35 years old graduate of Marketing, Advertising, Architecture or Fine Arts from reputable institutions
- at least 3 years related experience in Sales and Marketing
- knowledgeable in promotions and events management
- updated with marketing trends; analytical with keen marketing sense
- excellent communication skills; proficient in computer software applications

Product Designers

- not over 30 years old; Architecture, Interior Design or Fine Arts graduate
- with 3 years related experience in designing office furniture
- highly creative and responsive to market trends
- proficient in computer software applications
- can relate well with all levels in the business organization
- above average communication skills

Graphic Artists

- not over 25 years old; graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising
- at least 2 years related experrience in a furniture manufacturing company
- proficient in Adobe Photoshop, Corel, Macro Media freehand
- creative; can conceptualize designs / ideas
- good communication skills with copy writing ability

Industrial Engineers

- not over 35 years old; IE graduate from reputable institutions
- at least 3 years related experience in furniture manufacturing
- well exposed in time and motion studies and automation processess
- proficient in computer software applications
- above average communication skills; willing to extend working hours

Purchasers

- not over 35 years old; graduate of any business course
- at least 2 years related experience in furniture manufacturing
- well exposed in sourcing, ordering and import/export activities
- willing to extend working hours; can work effectively under pressure
- preferably Chinese speaking

Accounting Clerks

- not over 25 years old; Accounting graduate
- above average communication skills
- can relate well with all levels in the business organization

Interested applicants may apply in person or send resumé with latest 2x2 colored picture from Monday to Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to:

HR Department
114 Sauyo Road, Novaliches, Q.C
Email: clcmvc@i-next.net
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- HOSPITAL WORK EXPERIENCE MAY NOT BE REQUIRED AS LONG AS YOU MEET THE REQUIREMENTS AND UNDERGO SKILLS INVENTORY; TRAININGS WILL BE GIVEN!
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AROEMA@AOL.COM (subject: code: erick)

OR the Liaison for Asian countries:
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Interested applicants may call 02 638 2127/02 631 7382, for Cebu applicants contact MYLA 0918 691 6624; for Davao call Nica 0919 6678483 and for Cagayan de Oro contact Cristy 0916 4598158

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ELECTROWORLD

For our expansion program, we are looking for dynamic, self-driven, highly competitive and result-oriented individuals to fill up the following positions:

ACCOUNTING MANAGERS

- Female not more than 35 years old
- Graduates of Accounting must be Certified Public Accountants
- with at least 5 years work experience, 2 of which must be in supervisory position
- Must be people oriented and good on staff development
- With extensive experience in FS preparation and analysis
- Exposure in retail operations is an advantage
- Must be computer literate

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduates of Business or any 4 year service oriented course
- Excellent verbal and written communication
- Must be aggressive and creative in generating sales and marketing programs
- Must possess strong leadership capability, proactive and team player
- Experience in department stores, supermarket or food chain operations is an advantage

TEAM LEADERS

- Male/Female, not more than 27 years old
- Graduates of any Business course
- Highly competent and patient, hardworking and trustworthy
- Customer oriented, flexible and a team player
- Experience in handling retail supermarket stores is an advantage
- Must possess strong leadership skills

RETAIL SALES COORDINATORS

- Male/Female, not more than 27 years old
- Business course graduates of reputable school
- Customer oriented, flexible, hardworking and trustworthy
- Pleasing personality, fluent in oral and written communication
- Can work with minimum supervision

JUNIOR ENGINEERS

- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Electrical/Mechanical graduates from reputable school
- Familiar in electrical mechanical designs and preventive maintenance
- Knowledgeable in basic maintenance/ trouble shooting
- Knowledgeable in basic airconditioning and refrigeration
- with at least 3 year related experience
- Can work with minimum supervision, willing to be relocated

We offer a highly attractive compensation package, incentive and bonuses commensurate to performance and opportunities for continuing training and development.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MUST HAVE PLEASING PERSONALITY, EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GOOD CUSTOMER SERVICE ATTITUDE. ALL QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS MAY APPLY IN PERSON OR MAIL THEIR RESUMÉ WITH PICTURE TO:

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SHERIDAN STREET
MANDALUYONG CITY
TEL. # 631-5161 TO 64 Loc. 114

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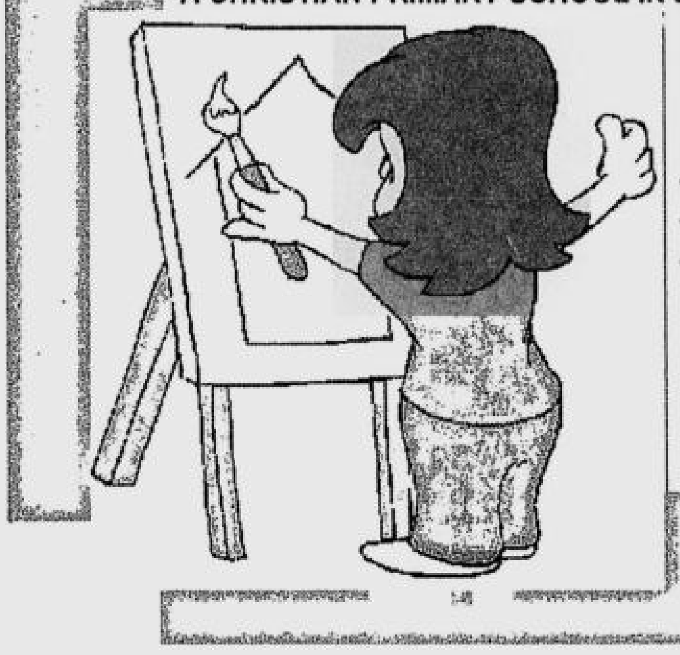
(049) 549-1221

A CHRISTIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA urgently need:



VICE PRINCIPAL / ENGLISH TEACHERS

- must be qualified and trained
- minimum 3 years experience in related field
- able to work independently or in a team

COMPENSATION PACKAGE:
* Salary open for negotiation
* One Round Trip Airfare (Economy Class) per year
* Accommodation Provided
* Lunch Provided in School
* Transport to and from School provided

Qualified Applicants may submit resumé at:
Suite 700 richville Corporate Tower
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Fax (032) 050-4502; E-mail: sirel@skyinet.net

TAMBUYOG DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Founded in 1984, Tambuyog has called the attention to declining fishery resources and unabated poverty in coastal communities through interdisciplinary research, creative information and education campaign, community organizing, policy advocacy and constituency building. Tambuyog endeavored in the development of an alternative approach to development— community-based coastal resource management (CBCRM)— with community property rights at the heart of its vision of empowering coastal communities and marginalized sectors of the fishing industry

We are urgently in need of project base staff for the implementation of Year 2 Fisheries Resources Management Project-a BFAR project to be based in San Fabian, Pangasinan and Sto. Tomas, La Union.

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST (EDS)

The job requires specialized knowledge in Community Enterprise Development. The EDS is primarily responsible for providing support to the fisherfolk associations and cooperatives in conceptualizing, planning, making feasibility studies and proposals for business enterprises; and for linking the fisherfolk associations/ cooperatives with funding institutions and market.

Qualifications:

- Highly competent in conceptualizing and writing feasibility studies, business plans and project proposals;
- Has the ability to discern and formulate appropriate businesses based on the resources and capabilities of the communities and on the socio-economic environment;
- Must have experience in designing and managing business

TEAM LEADER - (TL)

Responsible for supervising community organizers, for networking and advocacy at the municipal level. As the supervisor he/she is expected to closely monitor the implementation of the plan and provide timely guidance to community organizers in developing the strategies for organizing, mobilization and advocacy.

Qualifications:

- With experience in supervisory work for at least 3 years preferably in development work
- Has the ability of a leader, strong interpersonal and people management skills;
- Good oral and written communication skills and can speak Ilocano

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER (CDW)

Responsible for organizing, mobilization, education, and capacity building of the fisherfolk associations and cooperatives. Coaching, facilitation and providing assistance to the fisherfolk associations is integral in the work of a CDW. As the main person in the community work, direct integration with the community is a requisite for the jobholder.

Qualifications:

- Must have experience in organizing work for at least 3 years;
- Must be willing to stay at the project area for extended period of time;
- Good oral and written communication skills and can speak Ilocano

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION SPECIALIST (IES)

Responsible for designing training modules, information-education materials; for the documentation of major project activities; and for editing, layouting and production of reports to BFAR-FRMP.

Qualifications:

- Excellent writing skills in English, Pilipino and preferably in Ilocano
- With knowledge in photography, drawing skills is an advantage
- With experience as trainer and can develop training modules and training hand-outs
- Familiar with the operating systems of Word, Adobe Publisher/Microsoft Publisher and any photo editing program

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE OFFICER (AFO)

Responsible for managing the funds of the project; in transacting with BFAR Office for reimbursements and liquidation of project expenses; for monitoring and controlling the project resources; and for office management.

Qualifications:

- Must have at least 2 years experience in administration and finance work;
- Must have worked in NGOs for at least 2 years
- Graduate of Accounting or Management courses

All applicants should have the following qualifications:

- Graduate of 4 year course, preferably related to job position;
- Computer literate-windows-based programs and applications;
- Have worked with NGO/PO for at least 2 years;
- Can work well under pressure and willing to work in fishing communities for extended time even during Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays;
- Good oral and written communication skills

Interested applicants can submit their comprehensive resumé, tel./contact no., 1x1 colored picture through e-mail, fax, or in person at:

Tambuyog Development Center
91 V. Luna Rd. Ext. Sikatuna Village,
Quezon City
tambuyog@netgazer.com.ph
fax- 9264415
All application must be addressed to Mr. Emmanuel G. Gagalac, FRMP-Project Leader, attention to Ms. Abba B. Lucido, Administrative & HRD Officer.

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ENGINEERING GRADUATES BATCH 2002 and 2003

- **Graduates of Electrical, Mechanical, ECE, and Industrial Engineering**
- **Should possess leadership qualities, are team-players and hardworking**
- **Must be willing to work on shifts**
- **Male or Female, age limit is 23**

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- College graduate preferably with education units
- Specialization in any of the following subjects is a must: Business Math (Accounting/Economics), English, Music / **BAND**, Social Studies, World History, **MANDARIN / CHINESE**, Physical Education, Reading, Math, Science, Filipino, Computer Education, Values Education, Physics, Chemistry, General Science, Biology
- Preferably with graduate studies in education
- Must not be more than 40 years old
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

COLLEGE INSTRUCTORS

- Computer
- Nursing
- Finance
- Education
- Human Resource Management

VIDEO EDITOR/ADMIN. STAFF

- Communication graduate with specialization on Multi Media Production or any related course
- With pleasing personality, not more than 30 years old

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

- College grad. preferably with specialization in Early Childhood Education
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must not be more than 35 yrs. old

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

- Psychology or Counseling graduate with at least one year experience in an educational setting
- With leadership qualities

S.I.S.C. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo or come for testing with the required credentials on Saturday **(March 1, 8 and 15, 2003)**. The test will start at 8:00 AM.

Human Resource Office, Southville International School and Colleges
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. No. 820-8702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

The School of Future Leaders and Achievers. Right here. Right now.

UNDP

URGENT RECRUITMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is in need of a DSSC Administrative Assistant who is responsible for providing support services to project implementation, specifically in the (a) procurement of project equipment either by invitational or Public Bidding process; (b) contracting/sub-contracting of local and international consultants/experts by competitive process; (c) maintenance of DSSC online and on file database; (d) financial monitoring, recording DSSC transactions; (e) recruitment of project personnel, (f) arrangement for training, fellowships and study tours; (g) other auxiliary functions required in pursuit of the organization's thrusts and objectives.

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in Business Management and Economics, or other related fields. A masteral degree or units an advantage.
- At least 2-3 years experience in project management, particularly with international development agencies
- At least 2-3 years experience in procurement and contract management an advantage
- Ability to articulate clearly and concisely in English and Filipino, in both oral and verbal communications
- Must possess good organizational, analytical and communication skills; good judgment; initiative; and ability to work under pressure
- Computer literate (windows-based programs and applications)

Duration - Initial appointment will be for a period of six (6) months with possible extension up to 4 years renewable or on annual basis.

Gross Salary Rate: P38,000.00 per month.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs/ and send via mail to:

Personnel Unit
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Bldg.
106 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village
Makati City

on or before 1 MARCH 2003. Kindly note that only completed P11 forms will be reviewed.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino nationals to apply for the post.

TEACHERS WANTED

FOR PREP, ELEMENTARY & HIGH SCHOOL

Qualifications:

- BE Ed, BSE major in Social Studies, English, Math, Science, PEHM, THE, Music, Filipino, Religious Education w/ skill in Music Ministry
- Must have passed LET (highest priority f applicants w/ MA's & high LET grades)
- Single, Female, and Catholic
- Not more than 35 years old
- Good diction/fluent in English
- Computer literate, if possible
- Pleasing personality

Basic compensation: P14,800 + other Benefits

Apply in person and bring transcript of records at:

327 Ycaza St., San Miguel, Manila
Tel. 735-6393; 735-6386

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- Salary & Bonus from P12,000 to P25,000
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- We have 2 different positions, experience and non-experience
- Three levels of management available
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- New Offices in AsiaMall Corporate space
- Top personnel may receive U.S. training

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A trading company operating nationwide urgently needs honest & hardworking men & women to fill up the following positions:

(10) OFFICE MANAGERS

Male, 20-35 years old, Graduate of a 4-year Education or Business Course

(20) RECEPTIONIST / FRONT DESK

Female, 20-26 years old, with pleasing personality, with at least 2 years college course or 2 years in college, speaks English fluently

(250) "MANDARAGAT" ORGANIZER

Must be a fisherman or a fisherman by heart, 40-55 years old, determined, a born leader, cause-motivated, willing to be assigned in their respective regions, willing to work among fishermen in the identified poor provinces in the country.

(16) "MAGSASAKA" ORGANIZER

Must be a farmer or a farmer by heart, 40-55 years old, determined, a born leader, cause-motivated, willing to be assigned in their respective regions, willing to work among farmers in the identified provinces in the country.

(21) "BANGON KABATAAN" OFFICER

35-40 years old, determined, a born leader, cause-motivated, willing to be assigned in their respective cities - NCR only and other key cities, tasked to organize youth-oriented programs/activities

(80) OFFICE STAFFS

Male or Female, 16-20 years ood, at least in high school level, with parents consent to work (part-time or full-time)

(10) SECRETARIES

Female, 25-35 years old, graduate of computer or any 4-year course, speaks English fluently, pleasing personality, with good manners & right attitude

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to submit resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture at:

Suite 1002 PARC
House Cond. II, 21
EDSA Guadalupe
Nuevo,
Makati City.

Send resumés not later than **April 30, 2003.**

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are PeopleSupport's customer service representatives who provide customer service via email, chat and phone on a 24x7 basis. QUALIFICATIONS: *Four-year college degree, strong customer service orientation. excellent English communication skills, and good typing skills. Internet savvy. Willing to work shifts.*

travel eReps™

2+ years' experience in airline reservations (preferably international), or hotel/car rental reservations

or

Tourism/HRM graduate, with experience in the hospitality industry, preferably in reservations.

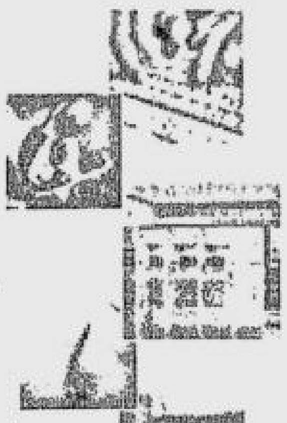
technical eReps™

College graduates from Computer Science/IT courses (or any related degree/background).

or

Experience in providing technical support for computer hardware and/or software.

We're also looking for..



trainer

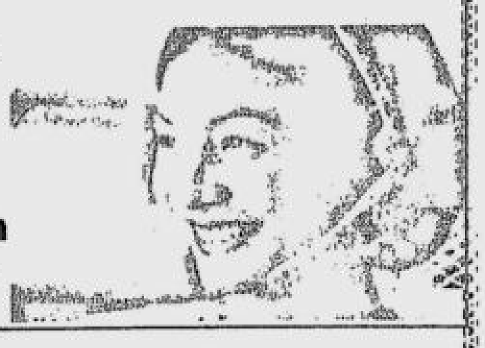
Train eReps on customer service, systems, client sites and updates. Develop course curriculum and material for training purposes. Plan and prepare continuing education programs for client verticals. Be available to work all shifts, including graveyard and the occasional weekend.

QUALIFICATIONS: 5+ years training experience on software, customer service skills, sales skills, and/or management skills or 3 years training experience and an intimate working knowledge of contact center environment. Experience with course development. Ability to coordinate multiple projects. Good working knowledge of adult educational concepts and the Internet. Proficient in MS Office. Excellent English communication, training and presentation skills.

Founded in the USA in 1998, PeopleSupport is a leading international call center that provides superior customer service via phone, email and chat, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

We focus on creating a supportive environment for our eReps™ so we can retain the best talent. We maintain a positive culture through motivation and retention programs, offer a dynamic and state-of-the-art work environment, casual dress code, professional development and training, and a competitive compensation and benefits package.

Today, in less than five years, our global network is composed of a corporate headquarters in Los Angeles, US call center in St Louis, Missouri, and of course, the Asia Pacific Headquarters in Manila, Philippines.



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We are in the forefront of IT distribution fueled by a team of customer-driven and highly dynamic professionals.

Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager (Consumer)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old
- Chinese Speaking
- Graduate of a business or IT-related course, an MBA degree is an advantage
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal and people-handling skills
- He/She will handle a team of product managers in ensuring the growth of the commodity product line which includes computer monitors, mother-boards, processors, CD-Rom/DVD drives
- Should possess at least 2 years of substantial sales & marketing experience in a managerial capacity gained from the IT distribution industry

Assistant Sales & Marketing Manager (Technology)

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of a business or IT-related course, an MBA degree is an advantage
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal and people-handling skills
- He/She will handle a team of product managers in ensuring the growth of the technology product line which includes networking products, UPS, and software products
- Should possess at least 2 years substantial sales & marketing experience in managerial capacity gained from IT companies

Product Manager (Technology)

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal and people-handling skills
- Should have at least 2 years substantial product management experience obtained from reputable IT firms
- Will be responsible for handling pricing, inventory and other marketing initiatives aimed at establishing market leadership in the technology products business

Product Manager (Motherboards & Processors)

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Chinese-speaking
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal and people-handling skills
- Should have at least 2 years substantial experience in product management obtained from reputable IT firms
- Will be responsible for handling pricing, inventory and other marketing initiatives aimed at establishing market leadership in the motherboards and processors business

Sales Officer (Commodity)

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Chinese Speaking
- Graduate of Business, Marketing or IT related courses
- Should be imbued with excellent communication and selling skills
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal skills, highly confident and aggressive
- With at least 1 year experience in channel sales of commodity products namely monitors, motherboards, processors, CD-Rom/DVD drives

Sales Officer (Software)

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Business, Marketing or IT related courses
- Should be imbued with excellent communication and selling skills
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal skills, highly confident and aggressive
- With at least 1 year experience in channel sales of software solutions

Sales Officer (For Cebu Office)

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- With at least 1 year experience in sales of PC, Server, and technology product lines which include networking products, UPS, and software solutions in a distribution set-up
- Should be imbued with excellent communication and selling skills
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal skills, highly confident and aggressive
- Preferably a graduate of an IT-related course

Web Developer

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Shall perform back-end and front-end web development functions
- Knowledgeable in ASP Programming, Visual Basic, HTML, SQL Server 7.0, IIS, Macromedia Flash, Dreamweaver, Javascript, Java, DHTML, and other related tools
- Graduate of Computer Engineering, MIS, or Computer Science course

MarComm Assistant

- Female, not more than 27 years old
- Graduate of Mass Communications or Advertising
- Should be imbued with excellent oral and written communication skills
- With flare for creative writing
- Detail and result-oriented

Telesales Assistants (3 Metro Manila, 1 Cebu)

- Female, not more than 27 years old
- Graduates of Business, Marketing, Mass Communications or IT-related course
- Possesses good communication skills and a strong inclination towards a career in sales

Receptionist / Telephone Operator (Contractual)

- Female, not more than 27 years old
- Graduate of any 4-years course
- With pleasing personality and excellent customer service skills
- Good communication skills

MIS Assistant (Contractual)

- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of a 2-year IT course
- Knowledgeable in basic networking, Lotus Notes and preferably has handled NT and Win2000 Servers
- With 1 year related experience in troubleshooting, hardware/software assembly/disassembly, software installation

Interested parties may send their letter of application and comprehensive resume' with colored photo. Kindly include the position applied for in the subject line

THE HR MANAGER
MSI-DIGILAND (PHILS.) INC.
Topy II Building 3 Economia Street,
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• E-mail: dphr@msi-digiland.com.ph
• Website: www.msi-digiland.com

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TAC
TEAM ASIA CORPORATION

WE ARE EXPANDING!!! We are looking for high-caliber individuals with excellent scholastic records from reputable universities who have the drive and skills to deliver results in a Competitive environment.

Only those who have the desire to be a Millionaire need apply for these sales positions. We offer attractive incentives and commission rates higher than the industry.

SALES MANAGER (CODE: SM)

☐ Male, not more than 40 years old; With degree in Marketing or in Business or Equivalent; With at least 3 years experience and in managing a direct sales force; Must have a strong background in finance and of strong administrative skills who can plan, formulate, execute and monitor sales-generating activities.

SALES SUPERVISORS (CODE: SS)

☐ Aggressive and with excellent oral communication skills; With 3 years experience in selling any of the above products; With existing distribution networks or data base of clients; Must be result-oriented, assertive, able to work under pressure; Must be highly motivated, self starter, and with strong leadership

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (CODE: AS)

☐ Very pleasing personality; Aggressive and with excellent oral communication skills; Highly motivated and self starter; With existing distribution networks or data base of clients; Fluency in Chinese language an advantage; 20 to 30 years of age

SALES ENGINEER [Waterproofing Products] (CODE: SE)

☐ Male or Female; Civil or Chemical Engineer; 2 years sales experience on cementitious and membrane type waterproofing; With established contacts within the government and construction industry (architects, contractors, owners, etc.)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (CODE: AA)

☐ 21 to 30 years old; Architecture / Civil Engineering Graduate; With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills

MARKETING CREATIVE & SERVICES ASSISTANT

☐ Female, between 25-28 years of age, team player; Graduate of Marketing or Communications degree; Must have at least 2 years working experience in a marketing services environment; Exposed to developing creative collaterals, media planning & merchandise Display; Computer experience in design software like Adobe/Corel/Illustrator

LICENSED PHARMACIST/CHEMIST

☐ Female, between 20-30 years old; Can speak and write Mandarin Chinese; Willing to travel abroad for training

Come personally with an application letter and detailed resumé
with a recent picture to:

Mrs. Cyde Gonzales
Team Asia Corporation
430 Lt. Artiaga St., San Juan, Metro Manila
(Near N. Domingo & M. Paterno Sts.)

E-Mail: dbiphils@info.com.ph

LEDTRONICS

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Be among the first to join the Pioneer and World Leader in Communication Solutions Through Technology featuring full spectrum of SMS Media System and other advanced-state-of-the-art Computer Programmable Display Systems for Indoor and Outdoor applications in Business, Mass Transit, Government, sports and etc.

TECHNICAL & CREATIVE HEAD

☐ At least 2-3 years of experience in communication network and systems (telephone, fiber, cellular, radio, CDPD); Knowledge of animation, graphics, drawing tools, and video programming; Literate in windows 95/98/2000/XP, Ms Office (Word,Excel, Powerpoint, Access), MS Outlook, Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw, Visual Basic, SQL, UNIX,HTML; Computer hardware/software knowledge; Graduate of BS Computer Science

GRAPHIC ARTIST

☐ Proficient and creative in layouting, outdoor signage design simulations, video designs; Graduate of Fine Arts in leading Colleges

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

☐ At least 2-3 years of experience in advertising/communications/media; College graduate, computer literate; Highly motivated and with excellent communication skills

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

☐ Female, not more than 40 years old; CPA, with at least 3 years experience; Preferably with knowledge in cost accounting; Computer literate and with excellent communication skills; Highly motivated and with good moral character

We offer attractive benefits and compensation packages.

APPLICANTS MUST E-MAIL OR SUBMIT COMPLETE RESUMÉ
AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO:

Mrs. Cyde Gonzales
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
430 Lt. Artiaga St., San Juan, Metro Manila
(Near N. Domingo & M. Paterno Sts.)
E-mail: dbiphils@info.com.ph

Robinsons Department Store

has requirements for

Division Merchandise Managers and Buyers:

- Shall be responsible for department sales and margins.
- Shall develop and initiate creative merchandising strategies that will improve department profitability.
- With at least 2 years related experience in retailing.
- Preferably with knowledge of JDA software.
- Will report to the AVP - Merchandising.

Interested parties are requested to bring or send their resume
with latest 2 x 2 picture and transcript of records to:

ROBINSONS, INC.
Human Resources Department
110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City
or e-mail us at: humanresources@rds.com.ph

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High School

ELIZABETH SETON SCHOOL a premier school of the future driven with a commitment for excellence, leadership and service is expanding its pool of teachers for School Year 2003-2004.

Interested applicants with the following credentials:

- BSE or BEEd graduate or
  BS / AB graduate with 18 units of education
  (to complete or completed)
- Preferably with a teaching license
- Fluent in English and Filipino
- Computer Literate (MS Office at least)
- Good moral background

May send their resumé and transcript of records to:

Ms. Ann Alido
HRD Office
Elizabeth Seton School
BF Resort Village, Las Piñas City

or call 875-4553 to 54 / 56 to 60 loc 224 for more information

Las Piñas Branch:
BFRV, Las Piñas City
Tel: 875-4553 to 54 / 56 to 60
Fax: 874-9990 / 874-6477

Cavite Branch:
Anabu II-D, Imus Cavite
Tel: (046) 471-6571 / 471-0080
Tel/Fax: (046) 471-5445

An internationally affiliated company is currently in search of dynamic, results-oriented and competent people to fill-up the following positions:

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

- Male / Female, 25-30 years old
- Graduates of Business Management, Marketing, Communication Arts and other related courses
- With 3-5 years experience in general account management, sales and marketing functions
- Fluent in English
- With strong personality
- Computer literate

SR. BUYERS

- Male / Female, 25-30 years old
- College graduates, preferably accounting, engineering, statistics and other math related courses.
- With 3-5 years experience in trading, retail buying - from sourcing, vendor negotiation, purchasing, inventory management and forecasting
- Computer literate

ACCOUNTING OFFICERS

- Male / Female, 25-30 years old
- BSC Accounting, preferably CPA
- With at least 3 years experience in general accounting functions
- Computer literate

Salary is commensurate to qualifications. Please submit not later than February 28, 2003 your comprehensive resumé with picture to:

P.O. BOX 600
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th flr. Bldg B, Edsa SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

A Western Restaurant is in need of :

CHEF
ASSISTANT CHEF
MANAGER
KITCHEN HELPER
FOOD ATTENDANT
Part time or Full time
Interested ???
CALL NOW
Evelyn & Bing
☎ **855-8196 - 97 / 0919 - 8108114**

EXPORT MARKETING ASSISTANT

(have a chance to travel to China)

- Goal oriented, aggressive & self-motivated
- Excellent in oral & written communications
- Must be able to conceptualize, develop and implement marketing scheme related to exporting
- Knowledge of Chinese or foreign language a plus factor
- Male/Female; not more than 40 years old.

Please call 3642981 or 4113337

IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Progressive and Dynamic Courier company is in need
of the following positions:

- *2 – Field Auditor (CPA)
- *1 – Marketing Manager
- *1 – Accounting Manager (CPA)
- *1 – Mall Supervisor
- *1 – Chief Security Officer
- *1 – Executive Secretary
- *4 – Armor Driver w/ SG License
- *1 – Business Development Head
- *1 – Operations Accountant (CPA)
- *1 – HR / Personnel Officer
- *1 – Investigator (w/ military background)
- *1 – Accounting Staff (CPA)
- *1 – Chief Telephone Operator
- *10 – Armor Escort w/ SG License

*Applicants must be at least 3 years working experience, single, male/female, not over 35 years old, College graduate and willing to work long hours. Due to urgency applicants must come for interview at #8 Road 3, Project 6 Quezon City (beside ACA Video City). Bring Resumé with 2X2 colored picture, or Fax at 929-2122. For inquiry call 426-0937 / 927-5233 look for Donna.

COOK/CHEF

Popular Lutong-Bahay Filipino restaurant in Vancouver, Canada seeks experienced Cook/Chef. Meet Canada immigration requirements: Good English, Formal Training, min. 5 years experience. No fees. Interviews this week.

Fax: 811-6777 Attention: Room 701

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SM

NOW HIRING

invites career-oriented and dynamic professionals to join our soon to open branches in

Marilao, Lucena and Baguio.

Candidates for the position should have the following competencies:

- ✓ excellent communication skills (both verbal and written form)
- ✓ can relate well with all levels of the organization
- ✓ proficient in computer software applications
- ✓ team player, goal oriented and able to work well under pressure
- ✓ willing to grow with the organization
- ✓ willing to work on weekends and holidays

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

SM Inc.
SM Corporate office; Bldg. D
1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City

Metro Manila based applicants may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the above address. (Please bring 3 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background and photo copy of your Transcript of Records and College Diploma together with the original copy).

E-mail: Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

OPERATIONS GROUP

OPERATIONS MANAGER

(For Lucena, Baguio and Cagayan De Oro)

graduate of any 4-year business course; with at least three (3) years managerial experience in retail operations

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

male, graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; with at least two (2) years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity; able to lead group and prioritize work load to meet deadlines

SELLING MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

with at least one (1) year experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales; personable and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

female, graduate of any 4-year business course; with pleasing personality and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively; with at least one (1) to two (2) years experience in customer service

COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGER/ SUPERVISOR

female, with at least one (1) year experience in credit card transactions in the same capacity; flexible and can handle customer concerns and complaints effectively

WAREHOUSE MANAGER/ SUPERVISOR

male, graduate of any 4-year business course; with intensive experience in warehousing and other related functions preferably in retail business; able to lead and motivate staff and foster a team working environment

CUSTOMER SERVICE RELATIONS MANAGER/SUPERVISOR

male, 5'5 1/2" in height, female, 5'2" in height, graduate of Criminology or at least 2nd year college; flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned in provincial branches; must be physically fit and willing to work on extended hours; at least one (1) year related work experience

SUPPORT/ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

• Manager • Officer • Supervisor

with at least two (2) years work experience in all accounting operations in the same capacity

PERSONNEL MANAGER

female, graduate of Behavioral Science, Law, Psychology or any 4-year Management course; with intensive experience in personnel management; must be able to build and maintain professional relations with people in the organization

ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS MANAGER/COORDINATOR

Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or Communications; with at least one (1) to two (2) years experience in advertising; must be creative and with good fashion sense; good verbal and written communication skills required

TREASURY MANAGER

female, graduate of Accounting or Banking & Finance; with at least two (2) years supervisory experience in accounting, funds management or treasury functions; familiar with banking operations and central bank procedures

TRAINING OFFICER/TRAINER

graduate of Education, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year Business course; at least two (2) years related work experience; knowledgeable in the conduct of training needs analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of training programs and activities related to behavior and skills of employees

DESIGN OFFICER

female, graduate of Architecture, preferably licensed; knowledgeable in AUTOCADD application

DISPLAY OFFICER

graduate of Fine Arts or any 4-year related course; with at least one (1) year experience in visual merchandising

COMPUTER OPERATOR/TECHNICIAN

male, graduate of Computer Science/Engineering; preferably with experience in the repair, trouble shooting and maintenance of cash register

---

Founded in 1991, INFONXX has been organized from the beginning to respond to highly specific information needs. We've developed a suite of enhanced information solutions not available from traditional DA providers.

This success is based on superior technology, exacting quality control, and uncompromising standards of customer service. Our agents undergo constant, intensive screening, training and monitoring to ensure that those standards are always maintained. Solutions from INFONXX have generated dramatic usage increases. INFONXX now handles more than 13 million enhanced directory assistance calls a month as we have aggressively expanded our service.

Customer Service Representatives

Responsibilities:

- Handles customer calls in a timely manner. Provides consistent, high quality service and accurate information to customers.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree
- Preferably with previous call center experience
- Required skills: able to type 20wpm, better than average spelling skills, customer service skills, excellent English communication skills

We are also inviting you to attend "GET WIRED" a Resume Party* on March 29, 2003, 5:30 pm at the Eat Food Court, 3rd Floor RCBC Plaza Tower in Makati and experience a whole new world of excitement and challenge in job searching. Your resumé with picture will be your ticket to this BIG event.

*** attire: Semi- formal**

INFONXX (Philippines), Inc.
11th Flr. RCBC Plaza Tower 2,
Ayala Ave. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati City
ph_jobs@infonxx.com
Tel. No. 755-1600

Our Company, **ISON INFOSYSTEM**, a pioneer in specialized solutions for corporate and government with international affiliates, is looking for SELF-DRIVEN, CREATIVE and DYNAMIC PROFESSIONALS who can be a part of our fast growing team.

We offer attractive compensation package with opportunity to travel abroad to qualified applicants for the following positions:

URGENT OPENINGS / FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING:

SALES AND MARKETING EXECUTIVES

- ☐ At least 2 years experience in Sales and Marketing; with Advertising experience preferred
- ☐ Excellent Oral and Written Communication Skills and with pleasing personality
- ☐ Can write proposals, reports, letters and other marketing materials
- ☐ With IT background preferred

MANAGERS

- ☐ At least 4 years experience in Managerial position
- ☐ With a good Business platform
- ☐ With pleasing personality
- ☐ With IT background preferred

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR / SENIOR DATABASE PROGRAMMERS

- ☐ At least 2 years experience
- ☐ Proficient in JAVA, J2EE, Server lets, JAVA Beans
- ☐ Working knowledge in:
  - JAVA, ASP, XML, J2EE, Server lets, JAVA Beans, Database - Preferably in DB2
  - OS - NT, LINUX, UNIX

WEB DESIGNER / WEB DEVELOPERS / PROGRAMMERS

- ☐ Knowledgeable in web languages (JAVA, Visual Basic, HTML, PHTML, ASP).
- ☐ Fast learner, friendly and with at least 2 years relevant work experience in the following applications:
  - MACROMEDIA Dreamweaver, Ultradev, Flash, Fireworks, etc.

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

- ☐ Proficient in Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator, Corel Draw and other graphic designing software
- ☐ Knowledgeable in the use of graphics and web programs such as Macromedia Dreamweaver, Flash, Fireworks, etc.
- ☐ Fast learner, friendly and with at least 2 years experience

SYSTEM ANALYST

- ☐ Graduate of Computer Science/Computer Engineering or related courses
- ☐ Knowledgeable in Database Administration (preferably DB2) and Programming, E-Commerce and M-Commerce
- ☐ At least 3 years relevant work experience in the following applications:
  - JAVA, SQL, Visual Basic, Web Development, ASP, Windows Operating System

ACCOUNTANT

- ☐ A Certified Public Accountant with at least 3 years experience
- ☐ Computer literate in Hardware, Software and Accessories
- ☐ Organized, with good communication skill and with pleasing personality

COPYWRITERS (Full-time)

- ☐ With experience in writing various marketing and advertising materials
- ☐ Can write copy for web sites, proposals and presentations
- ☐ With working experience in a Media Company

Please mail or send or e-mail your resumé and other credentials (sample works) to:

ISON INFOSYSTEMS, INC.
2/F I.T. Development Center
4585 Baron Street corner Montojo Street, Tejeros, Makati City
Tel. no. 895-4504; 895-3410 e-mail: admin@go2ph.net

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

POSITION : **TELEMARKETER**
QUALIFICATIONS : Smart, Cheerful, and responsible
College Graduate
Fluency in English is a must
Preferably with Telemarketing experience

POSITION : **ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES I**
QUALIFICATIONS : Male or Female
Excellent Communication Skills
College Graduate
Computer Literate
Personable, Hardworking, and Self-motivated

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE II
Same qualifications as Account Executive I
Preferably with : Sales experience
Knowledge in Networking System

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE III
Same qualifications as Account Executive I & II
Preferably with : Experience in Banking Operations

POSITION : **I.T. PROFESSIONALS**
QUALIFICATIONS : BS Computer Science or related Degree
Preferably with knowledge in Visual Basic 6.0/
Visual C++ programming

To the successful applicants, we offer a lucrative compensation package. Basic Salary, Transportation Allowance and Attractive Commission scheme

Qualified applicants may send their resumé to:

The Personnel Manager
P.O. Box 2835
Makati Central Post Office
Zip Code 1210

Or send by fax to : 899-8585

Brittany

CORPORATION

THERE ARE TWO THINGS THAT WE WORKED HARD FOR: THE HOUSES THAT WE SELL AND THE CAREER THAT WE BUILD FOR YOU.

We at BRITTANY CORPORATION are looking for dynamic, talented and success-driven team players to help us fulfill our aggressive plans for 2003.

We seek males and females between 23 to 26 years old, graduates from reputable schools who possess the winning attitude of top achievers. They must be in the top 15% of their classes.

Licensed Project Engineer & Architect Marketing Coordinator

- *He/she must be 24 to 26 years old & a UP, Ateneo or La Salle graduate. Experience in an ad agency, PR or Communications Dept. is a plus factor.*

Executive Assistant/Financial Analyst

- *He/she must be 24 to 26 years old & a UP, Ateneo or La Salle graduate. Proficiency in doing financial analysis & cash flows is a must.*

We are also looking for sales people to compliment our premier marketing subsidiary – Prime Advantage Properties Specialist, Inc. to close deals on our prime high-profile properties: PORTOFINO - Alabang, BRITTANY BAY - Sucat, LA MAREA – San Pedro & COTTONWOODS – Antipolo

Sales/Property Associates

- *Applicants must be between 23 to 30 years old with experiences in the field of pre-need/insurance, medical, hotel & restaurant, customer service & upscale real estate sales.*

Send / bring your resume & a recent 2x2 photo at the address below. Please indicate the position you are applying for in your resume.

BRITTANY CORP. - RECRUITMENT CENTER
6/F RICHVILLE CORPORATE TOWER, MADRIGAL BUSINESS
PARK, ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
FAX: 8506687/8506290 E-MAIL: **mktg@brittany.com.ph**

A successful, technology-driven group of companies supporting large U.S. firms need for it's Call Center:

Customer Service Representatives

- Experience preferred but not required
- Excellent spoken US English and well developed listening comprehension skills
- College degree holder from a reputable school
- Willing to work graveyard shift and long hours
- Dedicated; adaptable; assertive; team player
- Resides or willing to relocate within the Muntinlupa-Parañaque-Las Piñas area and vicinity.

Competitive salary, excellent chances for early promotion, intensive training, above average fringe benefits and the opportunity to work with a professional and socially responsible organization awaits successful candidates. Please bring resumé, transcript of records and recent 1x1 ID picture posthaste to:

DATASEARCH CORP.
Rm. 305 Pagel Bldg., Acacia St., Madrigal Business Park Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel #. 771-0134
Or e-mail resumé to datasearch@cybees.com

MMPI

MEGA MAGAZINES & PUBLICATIONS, INC.

Be part of the premiere fashion and lifestyle publications group in the country today.

Brand Associate

- ✓ graduate of Marketing or MassCom.
- ✓ at least with experience in an ad agency in conceptualizing & executing marketing plans

Copywriters

- ✓ graduate of Journalism or other related courses
- ✓ at least 2 years experience in copywriting and/or editorial work
- ✓ excellent editing and writing skills

Account Executives

- ✓ not more than 30 years old
- ✓ graduate of Marketing or MassCom.
- ✓ preferably with 1-2 years experience in sales
- ✓ outstanding interpersonal, oral comm., and presentation skills

Administrative Assistants

- ✓ graduate of any four year course
- ✓ preferably with experience in office management

Associate Editor

- ✓ at least 28 years old
- ✓ 2-3 years experience in editorial work
- ✓ with excellent communication & interpersonal skills

Fashion Stylists

- ✓ styling experience of at least 1 year
- ✓ ability to work with retailers, designers and fashion suppliers
- ✓ has good communication skills and preferably with photoshoot experience

Events Coordinators

- ✓ at least 27 years old
- ✓ with extensive experience in events
- ✓ can work long hours

Graphic Artists

- ✓ graduate of Fine Arts major in Advertising
- ✓ 1 to 2 years experience in computer graphics
- ✓ proficient in QuarkExpress or Freehand

Applicants may apply personally or send a resumé, transcript of records and a 2x2 picture to:

The Human Resources Manager
Mega Magazines and Publications, Inc.
18th Floor, Strata 100 Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
or at P.O. Box 12762 Ortigas Center
e-mail: paul@ivegotstyle.net

BE WITH THE BEST IN THE INDUSTRY...

➢ Do you want the challenge of working in a dynamic, start-up work environment?
➢ Do you want to jump start your career and pursue professional growth?
➢ Do you want to work with equally remarkablo, talented, and skilled young individuals?

SATISFY WHAT YOU WANT BY JOINING INCOHO!!!

Incoho is a start-up call center based in Chicago off shoring its operations here in Manila. We provide outsourced business processes for companies in various industries, ranging from financial institutions to telecommunications companies.

INCOHO

Http://www.incohoinc.com

We provide high-quality account receivable management services for one of the United States' largest telecom groups and credit & collections for two of the Philippines' largest international banks.

We welcome all dynamic, creative, and goal-oriented applicants to send their resumes to:

Email Address:
HR@INCOHOINC.PH

Qualifications

- four year college degree
- excellent communication and social skills
- exceptional analytical abilities
- excellent multi-tasking skills
- willing to work on shifts
- familiarity with Microsoft Office is an edge

Mailing Address

Attention: Director, Recruitment and Training
Incoho Philippines, Inc.
3F Bonifacio Technology Center
31st Street corner 2nd Avenue
Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila

➢ **BE AHEAD AND BE PART OF OUR TEAM!!!** ➢

LEXMARK

Research & Development Corporation is *EXPANDING, EXPANDING,*
EXPANDING.....

We are strengthening our manpower needs for 2003 so we are inviting highly motivated and results-driven individuals for the following positions:

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

Job Summary:

Responsible for the planning, design, development improvement and maintenance of a programming application or system, usually part of a large-scale program. Develops new or modifies and improves existing engineering designs or techniques related to systems, products, devices, components, processes, methods, equipment, facilities or production.

Qualifications:

- BS Computer Engineering / BS Computer Science graduates or other related fields;
- Must be knowledgeable with C / C++ Programming;
- Knowledge in Java will also be considered;
- With good scholastic record;
- Must also be knowledgeable with Software Development processes;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Proficient in the English language.

SOFTWARE PROJECT ENGINEERS

Job Summary:

Responsible for solving major technical issues that impact schedule and the ability to meet requirements.

Qualifications:

- B.S. Computer Engineering / B.S. Computer Science graduates or other related fields;
- Minimum of 5 years I.T. work experience, at least two (2) years of which is project management;
- Must be proficient in the MS Project and other Microsoft productivity tools;
- Must be able to organize and manage project work plans, provide comprehensive project status reports and activities, follow-up on deliverables and see to it that milestones are met on schedule;
- Team player and can adapt to varying client and project requirements.

The company is a fast growing, integrated global developer and designer of software or firmware for Lexmark's printer products with headquarters in Kentucky, Lexington, U.S.A. Our office is located at Globe Isla Plaza, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City.

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Lexmark Research & Development Corporation
8/F Globe Isla Plaza
Samar Loop cor. Panay Road, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
or
You can email your resumes to:

lrdchrd@lexmark.com

LEXMARK IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER WE DO NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, SEX, CIVIL STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN AND AGE.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

If you are:

- Female
- Single
- Not over 25 years old
- At least 5' in height
- Graduate of Interior Design, Industrial Engineering, Architecture or any 4-year Management course.
- Determined to pursue a career in field sales.
- Customer and service oriented.
- Self motivated, agressive, dynamic and persistent.
- Pleasing personality, alert and patient.
- Good moral character.
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.

We offer:

- Monthly allowances, travel allowances, food allowances, generous commission schemes and training.

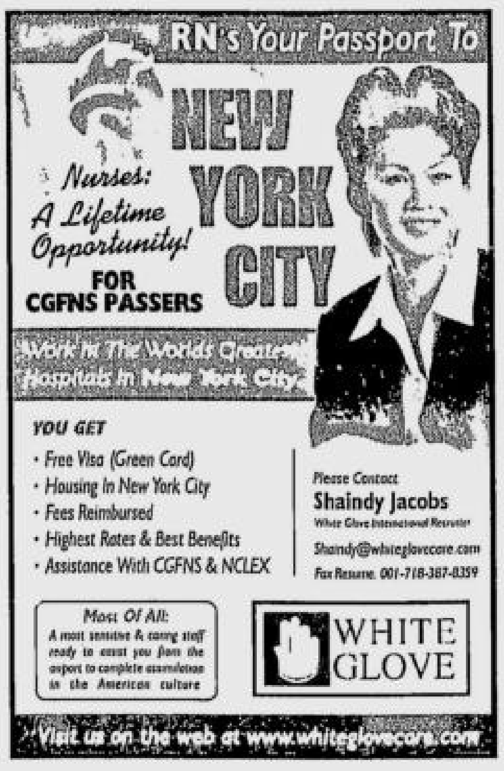
Requirements:

- Comprehensive resumé with recent colored photo with white background (2x2).
- Original and photocopy of your transcript of records and College diploma.

Apply to:

THE OFFICE MANAGER
379 DASMARIÑAS STREET
CORNER TOMAS PINPIN STREET
BINONDO, MANILA
Tel. No. 242-9820 local 15.

Opportunity knocks but once. Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer. JOB MARKET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Work In The World's Greatest Hospitals In New York City
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YOU GET

- Free Visa (Green Card)
- Housing In New York City
- Fees Reimbursed
- Highest Rates & Best Benefits
- Assistance With CGFNS & NCLEX

Please Contact
Shaindy Jacobs
White Glove International Recruiter
Shaindy@whiteglovecare.com
Fax Resume: 001-718-387-8359

Most Of All:
A most sensitive & caring staff ready to assist you from the airport to complete assimilation in the American culture

Visit us on the web at www.whiteglovecare.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Advertising / Printing Account Executives

- Degree in advertising, mass communication marketing or public relations
- Highly motivated and articulate with marketing experience
- Knowledgeable in large-format printing

Tel. 631-6318 Look for Jinky

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office Manila

REQUIRES A

PUBLIC INFORMATION ASSISTANT

The World Bank Office, Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for a **top caliber Public Information Assistant** to assist in developing and executing the Philippines' communications and outreach strategy through the Bank's Knowledge for Development Centers (KDCs) in Manila and in partner institutions. The position will be for a 3-year-term basis, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. The selected candidate will report to the External Relations Officer.

The major duties and accountabilities of the selected candidate will be the following:

Knowledge for Development Centers (KDC)

- Responsibility for setting up new KDCs, management, maintenance, monitoring, evaluating, & promotions, & training of new and current KDC staff.

Outreach/Information Dissemination and Compliance with Disclosure Policy

- Acquire, manage, and distribute project documents & publications; monitor & ensure compliance of disclosure of project documents; provide advice on the implementation of the Bank's Disclosure Policy;
- Provide courteous, accurate and timely response to routine inquiries about the Bank and refer complex questions to appropriate Bank staff;
- Implement dissemination outreach program within the country including programs to advertise collections access and dissemination, including the use of electronic media;
- Under guidance, draft, edit, produce, and distribute routine outreach materials related to the Bank's work-in-country;
- Routinely gather basic information about the Bank and its work to monitor and stay abreast of current events, activities, and thinking on Bank-related issues; Ensure the delivery of a media monitoring system for the Country team.
- Maintain effective working relationships and communications with key clients, constituencies, partners, and counterparts.

Selection Criteria:

- BA/BS graduate in Information or Library Sciences, Communications, International or Public Affairs, Journalism or related field of specialization and responsibility; Licensed librarians preferred; at least 3 to 5 years of relevant experience;
- Solid knowledge and understanding of information management and library processes, procedures and practices, including the relevant databases and technology;
- Experience in handling document/book distribution and in the design and delivery of other information dissemination activities;
- Familiarity with communications approaches, tools, and methodologies for planning, executing, and monitoring communications strategies;
- Excellent oral and written communications capabilities; strong organizational, research/analytical and presentation skills;
- Strong computer skills (Internet, Word, Lotus Notes, PowerPoint, Excel, etc.);
- General knowledge of the Bank's work and understanding of social, political and development issues in the region and country;
- High degree of self-motivation and proven ability to work under minimum supervision and as part of a team;
- Ability to work capably under stress and to juggle multiple tasks within tight deadlines;
- Willingness to do periodic travel to the provinces to visit the network of KDCs.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resumé with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than March 7, 2003. Applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview. Send the above to: **The Resource Management Officer, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Box No. 500, 5/F, Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.**

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office Manila

REQUIRES A

FINANCE ASSISTANT

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for a **top caliber Finance Assistant** for its Disbursement Unit. The primary responsibility is to determine the completeness of borrowers' requests in accordance with the Bank's policies and procedures, verification of documentation and processing of disbursements or special commitment requests. He/She will provide support to negotiations, mission preparation, and disbursement seminars. The position will be for a 3-year term basis, subject to one year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. The selected candidate will report to the Disbursement Officer.

The major duties and responsibilities will be the following:

- **Disbursement Transaction Processing.** Ensure completeness of disbursement applications and process all types of withdrawal and special commitment requests. Draft correspondence to the borrowers or operational staff. Review the pending refunds and other adjustment transactions. Process special commitment amendments and prepare amendment letters.
- **Project Management.** Assist in closing of projects and finalizing files. Answer questions from Task Team Leaders, borrowers, commercial banks, and suppliers on payments, balances, and application status.
- **Capacity Building/Department Tasks.** Assist the Financial Management and Disbursement team in materials preparation for workshops and seminars, including logistics and travel arrangements. Participate in departmental/divisional task forces.

Selection Criteria:

- Bachelor's Degree in Business, Finance, Accounting and/or related field.
- Minimum of 5 years relevant experience.
- Excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to establish and maintain excellent work relations in a team environment.
- Ability to work under pressure with minimum supervision.
- Proficient computer skills as well as ability to understand information systems and the application of new technology.
- Attention to detail and numerical accuracy.
- Ability to deal with rapidly shifting priorities and work demands, and willingness to learn new skills and seek help from colleagues.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resumé with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than March 7, 2003. Applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview. Send the above to: **The Resource Management Officer, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Box No. 300, 5/F, Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.**

Asia United Bank
The Bank of Choice

We are looking for highly motivated, competent and dynamic persons to join our team to deliver superior banking services:

REMITTANCE MARKETING OFFICER

- Successful candidates will be responsible for the over-all introduction, marketing and sales promotion of the Bank's remittance program to the existing and prospective foreign correspondents/tie-ups worldwide.
- Ideal candidates are Business graduates, with at least five (5) years of experience in the remittance business of a bank.
- Must have full knowledge of remittance operations, processes, regulations and product features.
- Selling and supervisory skills. Highly proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate.

CASH VAULT OPERATIONS OFFICER

- He/she will be responsible for supervising the daily cash vault operations of the bank ensuring timely service to the branches regarding daily cash requisitions, pick-up and delivery of cash.
- Business or Accounting graduate. Familiar with cash vault operations.
- Excellent interpersonal skills. Computer literate.

CLEARING OFFICER

- Successful candidate will supervise clearing operations which include approving of accounting entries, timely submission of outward clearing demands, monitoring of inward clearing items against the supplementary general ledger.
- Preferably male, graduate of any four (4) year business course.
- With at least four (4) years of experience in clearing operations of a bank. With background in Accounting.
- Excellent interpersonal skills. Computer literate.

I.T. AUDITOR

- Successful hires will be responsible for reviewing internal controls and security risks of all hardware, application and operating systems of the Information Technology Group.
- Must be a graduate of Accounting or I.T. related course.
- Preferably a licensed CPA, with at least five (5) years of I.T. Audit experience.
- With sufficient knowledge of the IT and IS controls for planning, directing, supervising, review and perform appropriate tests of control and substantive procedures.

Qualified candidates are invited to personally apply from Monday to Friday or mail/e-mail comprehensive resumé and 2x2 photo to:

Asia United Bank
www.asiaunited.com.ph
Human Resources Management Division
22/F Rm. 2209 Antel Global Corporate Center
Doña Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

humanresources@asiaunited.com.ph

CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief and development agency of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (CRS-USCCB), is in need of a highly qualified staff for the position of:

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

The Chief Operating Officer will be responsible for the management and supervision of staff and operations of a microfinance institution called Thaneakea Phum with a social vision and a business orientation. It provides poor rural women with economic opportunities to transform the quality of their lives and their communities through the provision of effective and sustainable financial services.

He/She will provide training and technical support to the branch managers to implement and achieve their performance targets. He/She will develop and implement strategic interventions to assist low-performing and/or underachieving managers, as well as develop new products and conduct market testing for innovative financial and non-financial services. The position requires foreign travel.

Qualifications

- Master's Degree in Accounting, Banking/Finance, or Business Management
- At least five years experience in small retail banking or formal microfinance operations
- Experience in training and adult learning behavior for people with no finance or business background
- Experience in managing a transition process towards full localization
- Strong commitment to working with TPC for two to three years to complete the localization process
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically and innovatively
- Proficient in spreadsheet, database, word processing programs
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Ability to work in a cross-cultural environment and foster teamwork among international and national staff

Interested individuals must submit an application letter and comprehensive resumé (**indicating job requisition # I 03007**) via e-mail to:

crsphils@globenet.com.ph
CRS Philippines
CBCP Bldg., 470 Gen. Luna Street
Intramuros, Manila

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we are changing the world

one call at a time

ASSISTANT OPERATIONS MANAGER	20 TEAM CAPTAINS FOR INBOUND & INBOUND SALES
- Must have previous inbound sales experience and managed a group of supervisors / team leaders	- 1 year previous supervisory experience a must
300 INBOUND SALES CUSTOMER INTERACTION ASSOCIATES	**200 INBOUND CUSTOMER INTERACTION ASSOCIATES**
- Must have excellent English communication skills and previous sales experience preferably in a call center - Telemarketing experience a plus	- Must have excellent English communication skills
FINANCIAL ANALYST	**ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT**
Job Requirement - Business degree from top-tier university with 2 years with a multinational corporation - Excellent analytical skills & strong understanding of financial concepts **Position Responsibilities** - Will develop & refine the Company's financial models on a regular basis - Track the Company's performance versus budget	**Job Requirement** - Must be an Accounting graduate with at least 2 years accounting experience **Position Responsibilities** - Will record & encode the Company's financial transactions in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles - Prepare & validate all general ledger schedule incl. lapsing schedules, forex reconciliation, etc. - Assist in the preparation of financial reports

ambergris solutions

Bring or mail your updated resume with picture to:

Ambergris Solutions
31/F Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Monday to Friday, between 9am-9pm

Supermart

---OPENING---

CASHIERS

- Female, 18-25 years old, Minimum height 5'2", Single
- College graduate or at least in 2nd year level, Good in arithmetic

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Honest and trustworthy, NBI Clearance, ID Photo.
- Good health & morals, Personable.
- Bring accountability (Honorable release & Clearance certificate) form from last employer.
- High School Grad English Speaking, Disciplined, Willing to work long hours.
- Living in Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Laguna preferred.

APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY PERSONALLY WITH YOUR BIO-DATA, SSS AND PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE AT OUR PERSONNEL OFFICE AT GATE NO. 3 THRU RECEIVING GATE AT THEATER DRIVE

Contact: Maricar Buhay/
Anna Queñano
ALABANG SUPERMARKET CORP.
Theater Drive corner Commerce Ave.,
Alabang Town Center
Alabang Muntinlupa (807-2209)

SUPERMARKET

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office Manila

REQUIRES A

PROGRAM ASSISTANT

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for a **top caliber Program Assistant** to provide efficient and high quality accounting and administrative support to the Administration and Finance Team. The position will be for a 3-year term basis, subject to one year probationary period, with possibility of renewal. The selected candidate will report to the Resource Management Officer. Duties and responsibilities include but not limited to:

Provide wide range of administrative and accounting support to the Administration and Finance Team, including procurement transaction processing and monitoring using Systems Applications and Products (SAP), petty cash transactions, bill processing, physical custody and maintenance of fixed assets, specialized support on a wide range of administrative, secretarial and logistics services, e.g. providing assistance in the recruitment and negotiation of contractual staff.

Selection Criteria:

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Accounting, or Business and/or related field.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to establish and maintain excellent work relations in a team environment.
- High degree of initiative, flexibility and resourcefulness with a drive for efficiency and results.
- Excellent organizational skills, ability to prioritize assignment and work effectively under pressure with minimum supervision.
- Excellent communication skills.
- High degree of judgment and tact in handling the most sensitive, diverse and confidential material/work.
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint programs), preferably with knowledge of SAP.
- Thorough working knowledge of general office procedures, business machines and e-mails.
- Minimum of six (6) years relevant work experience.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resumé with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than March 7, 2003. Applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview. Send the above to: **The Resource Management Officer, c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Box No. 400, 5/F, Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.**

A company servicing international offices urgently requires a

DB Analyst Report Writer

Qualifications:

- ➢ Male/Female
- ➢ Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree, or related courses
- ➢ Must have 2-3 years experience creating customize reports in RDBMS (MS SQL 7.0/2000)
- ➢ Must be very proficient in using Crystal Reports 8.0 or later
- ➢ Can administer MS SQL 7.0/2000
- ➢ Must be a certified Microsoft Database Administrator
- ➢ Has a good English Communication skills
- ➢ Can speak and understand any of the following languages
  - Mandarin/Fookien, Nippongo or Spanish an advantage
- ➢ Self starter
- ➢ Willing to work in a Shifting schedule
- ➢ Knowledgeable in Web DB Integration and IIS is an advantage

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture and other credentials to (please indicate current salary):

THE OFFICE MANAGER
12th Floor Net One Center
26th Street Corner 3rd Avenue, Crescent Park West
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila

A DOCUMENT PROCESSING CENTER FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF:

DOCUMENT PROCESSORS/OPERATORS

(WITH SPECIAL SKILLS)

- male or female, college graduate from reputable schools
- excellent English communications and typing skills
- highly computer literate with knowledge in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Photoshop and PageMaker
- willing to work 6 days a week, even during holidays, and be assigned to different shifts
- experience with recorders and transcribers preferred
- experience in desktop publishing, advertising and production of marketing materials, exposure with preparation of bills and accounts payable a plus

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2 x 2 picture, and other credentials to (please indicate current salary):

THE OFFICE MANAGER
12th Floor Net One Center
26th Street Corner 3rd Avenue, Crescent Park West
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila

Jobsonline.com.ph

Emaar Engineering
Mechanical Engineer (Code:2481)
B. Site Engineer / Site Supervisor (Code:2480)
Quantity Surveyor (Code:2518)
Architect (Code:2519)
Cottolengo Filipino Inc
Registered Occupational Therapist (Code:2513)
PHILCAMSAT
Marine Training Instructors (Code:2512)
Hachi International Philippines, Inc.
Trilingual Personnel Jap-Eng-Fil-Mandarin-Thai (Code:2476)
Prince Ventures Corp/ Prince Food Mart
Salesman/ Saleslady (Code:2487)
A Manufacturer for Telecoms Equipment
Field Sales Officer (Code:2499)
Confetti Effects
Secretary (Code:2511)
CASIO – Business Plus
Marketing Specialist (Code:2489)
Promo Edge Corporation
Nutritionist (Code:2497)
One TV Satellite Broadcasting Network
Media Officers (Code:2500)
Eastwood Property Holdings, Inc.
Technical Services Officer (Code:2482)
Junior Creative Artist (Code:2483)
Office Assistant (Code:2484)
Department Secretaries (Code:2485)
CHRYSARA
Production Manager (Code:2514)
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Encoders/Researchers (Code:2503)
Philippine Interactive Audiotext Services Inc.
Executive Secretary (Code:2550)
Management Trainees (Code:2551)
Customer Service Representative (Code:2552)
A Leading and ISO-9001 Certified Company
Office Staff (Code:2517)
Eastwood Property Holdings, Inc.
HR/ Training Assistant (Code:2523)
BMJ Orthotech Medical
Medical Representatives (Code:2565)
A Japanese Semicon Manufacturing Plant
Quality Assurance Manager (Code:2574)
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Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club Inc
Golf Maintenance Supervisor (Code:2506)
Earth+Style Corporation
Property Consultants (Code:2573)
Mega-Tsung International Trading Corp.
Accountant (Code:2590)

For more job info and how to apply, Text:
JOB INFO <Code>
ex. JOB INFO 2473

To receive Job Alerts in your email. Text
JOB ALERT <YourEmailAddress>
ex. JOB ALERT allen2002@yahoo.com

Send text to **288** *on SMART/TalkNText or to* **2333** *on GLOBE Handyphone/TouchMobile. Visit* ***www.jobsonline.com.ph*** *for more jobs.*

To Advertise Contact 927-0734 / ads@jobsonline.com.ph

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

LEGAL OFFICER

for SOUTH LUZON TOLLWAYS

QUALIFICATIONS

- Male
- Single/Married
- 30-40 years old
- Preferably residing in Muntinlupa City, Cavite or Laguna
- With minimum of 3 years experience in Corporate affairs (labor, taxation, contract administration, etc.)
- With knowledge in litigation, computer literate
- Must have analytical/sound judgment, strong personality, conversant both in written and oral communication
- Can work well with others

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide legal advise and legal services to protect the company business and legal interest (filing cases in court due to theft/pilferage, damage to the company property, stoning incident, motor vehicular accident, labor related cases, assist in investigation and represent the company in litigation, court hearing, etc.).
- Represents the company's interest in litigation, abstraction and negotiation.
- Coordinate with, updates, reports to Head, Legal Division re: legal strategy, status of cases, action to be taken.

Interested applicants, may send their resumé with latest 1x1 ID picture to the Head, Recruitment and Placement Section, Personnel Services Dept.-HRAD, Edsa cor. Reliance St., Mandaluyong City

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Be with the best!

AHEAD Learning Systems, Inc. is the company responsible for the success of AHEAD Tutorial & Review Center and WorldPrep Learning Center. AHEAD offers the best review classes for the admission tests of top colleges and universities and tutorials for all subjects from preschool to graduate level.

BRANCH MANAGER
BRANCH COORDINATORS

- With at least 3 years working experience
- Prepared to do multi-tasking
- Excellent customer service orientation
- College graduate, 25 to 40 years old

PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

- With at least 2 years teaching experience in reputable school
- Prepared to do multi-tasking
- Preferably Child Psych, SPED, Early Child Ed graduate
- Highly organized and detail oriented

WRITERS AND EDITORS
PROJECT COORDINATORS
MARKETING EXECUTIVES
SECRETARIES
HR ASSISTANTS
PART-TIME LAYOUT ARTIST

LECTURERS

- Part/full-time
- Will lecture on Math or Science or Language or Reading or General Info
- Has good rapport with young people
- Honor graduates or teachers of UP, Ateneo, La Salle, any course; or
- Bar or board topnotchers, or
- Law or medicine graduates and students

TUTORS

- Part/full-time
- Has good rapport with young people
- Graduates/students/teachers of UP, Ateneo, La Salle, or PSHS
- Will teach Science or Math or Language - as well as foreign Languages or accounting or Computer subjects

Send your comprehensive resume, transcript of records, and two 2x2 pictures to:

AHEAD LEARNING SYSTEMS, INC.

309 KATIPUNAN AVE. LOYOLA HEIGHTS QUEZON CITY
149 B GONZALES STREET LOYOLA HEIGHTS QUEZON CITY
2/F PROVIDENCE BUILDING 55 ANNAPOLIS STREET GREENHILLS
4/F PEARL PLAZA PEARL DRIVE ORTIGAS CENTER
SM MEGAMALL 5TH FLOOR, BUILDING B MANDALUYONG CITY

Global City Innovative College

TOP CALIBER DYNAMIC PROFESSORS

FULL TIME / PART TIME – English, Math, Science, Filipino, PE, Psychology, Anatomy, Zoology, Civil Engineering and Economics preferably with DOST background. Nursing educators – health care, health ethics, clinical instructors. MD's are welcome to teach

DEAN – BSBA (BUSINESS MANAGEMENT WITH ENTREPRENEURSHIP)

BENEFITS:
Attractive compensation package • Opportunity for faculty development, Innovative Programs • World class learning and teching environment

REQUIREMENTS:
With MA in field of specialization • Excellent in oral and written communication skills

CAREGIVER TRAINORS

Please submit COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TOR AND 2x2 ID PICTURES to The HRD
Address: 3/F BONIFACIO TECHNOLOGY CENTER
31st St. corner 2nd Avenue, Crescent Park West Bonifacio Global City Taguig, M.M.
Tel: 818-0945-46 /818-1955

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

OFFICE UTILITY MAN

- Male, 24-30 years old
- Minimum 2 years college education
- Honest and Trustworthy
- Hardworing and dependable

Must submit police / NBI Clearance, biodata and ID picture to:

GOLDSTAR MEDICAL SYSTEMS INC.
3/F Metropolitan Avenue cor. Sacred Heart St.
Makati City 1203 Tel. No. 899-6632

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macare

The Philippines **MARKET LEADER** *in Blood Transfusion Medicine has an* **URGENT** *need for:*

PHARMACIST

The ideal candidate must possess a high degree of flexibility in performing both Marketing and Technical related functions.

He or she must be sales oriented, proactive, articulate and personable.

To assist our Marketing Department establish a well organized and responsive Customer Service and Information System, our chosen candidate shall also be involved in our various Product Promotion Programs.

He or she must be familiar with the various Product Registration requirements of the BFAD, and would be able to handle the necessary liaison job involve in securing the Product Registrations and other related Business Permits for the Company.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Male or Female, between the ages of 21 to 30 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Pharmacy, a Board Passer and has a current PRC License
- Preferably with Sales, Training or Marketing Experience
- Must be computer literate and systems oriented
- Must be proficient in driving and has a valid Driver's License

OUR REMUNERATION PACKAGE IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE

Aside from an above industry Monthly Basic Salary, successful candidate can look forward to a Mid-Year Bonus; 14th to 15th Month Performance Bonus and Allowances.

In addition, numerous Fringe Benefits and other attractive Perks also await our new team Player, such as FOREIGN TRIPS for Regular and Advance Training; Participation to the Company Subsidized CAR PLAN PROGRAM and Medical, Hospitalization and Accident Insurance Benefit.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS may submit their RESUMÉ with a recent photo and TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS at:

MACARE MEDICALS, INC.
No. 67 A. Luna St., Project 4, Quezon City 1109
Tel. Nos. 9134201-02
Fax No.: 913-5937 E-mail: macare@skyinet.net

WIERIG COATINGS PHILIPPINES INC.

A German manufacturer of building materials is in need of Highly motivated, career-oriented and team players.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A) SALES ENGINEER (2)

- ✓ MALE/FEMALE, preferably an Architect / Civil, Mechanical or Chemical Engineer
- ✓ w/ 2-3 years experience in Sales and Marketing of building and construction materials
- ✓ w/ strong contact with design Engineers and Architects
- ✓ can work well under pressure and minimal supervision

B) PROJECT ENGINEER (1)

- ✓ MALE/FEMALE
- ✓ w/ experience in Civil Engineering works and project implementation
- ✓ Computer literate
- ✓ willing to work long hours
- ✓ has the potential to become a Sales Manager

Due to the urgency of needs, interested applicants are requested to submit their resumé and apply personally to:

DHORIE SANTOS — Marketing Assistant
10/F 6784 Rufino Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
892-1659 / 892-1669 / 892-1696 / 892-1667
Fax: 892-1736

CHINA SHIPPING MANILA AGENCY INC.
6th Floor, Carolina Building,
2106 Madre Ignacia Street, Malate, Manila
Trunkline: (632) 303-2003 to 07
Direct Line: (632) 526-1772, 526-1794, 536-0378

SALES SUPERVISOR

- ** Technical Sales and Marketing experience in a Forwarding or a Shipping Company
- ** Well experienced in U.S. Trade Sales
- ** Efficient, can work effectively under pressure
- ** Demonstrated initiative, willing to work on extended hours
- ** Male / Female, 25 to 35 years old

Qualified applicants may submit their application letter, ID picture, comprehensive resumé and transcript of records from Monday to Friday, Feb. 24 to 28, 9:00 AM t[illegible] [illegible]00 NN at our address mentioned.

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millimeter
DESIGN STRATEGIES, INC

Our company is currently looking for:

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS 2-5 yrs experience; Macintosh graphic software & Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and In-Design & Flash expertise; Able to work long hours & handle multiple projects simultaneously; Can execute final artworks and proficient in both traditional & non-traditional advertising design & principles printing processes.

ART DIRECTOR 5 yrs experience; Macintosh graphic software & Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and In-Design & Flash expertise; Strong copywriting, leadership & orgazinational skills; Able to coordinate well with clientele & its peers and understand what is being conveyed immediately; Highly creative.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE 2 -3 years experience in an advertising firm; Outstanding communication skills (both oral and written); Assertive, articulate and able to establish rapport with clients.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT College Graduate, Male 22-28 yrs old, single; Has a valid driver's license and familiar within Metro Manila; Computer Literate; Well-Organized and Able to work long extensive hours.

SECRETARY Female, 22-28 yrs old, single; College Graduate; 3 yrs experience; Computer literate on Microsoft Office Programs; Able to handle multiple tasks simultaneously.

PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS Graduate of Communications, Fine Arts or any related field (Currently enrolled students are also encourage to apply)

APPLICANTS WHOSE RESIDENCE IS WITHIN LAGUNA, ALABANG, LAS PINAS, PARANAQUE, CAVITE AND MUNTINLUPA ARE PREFERRED.

interested candidates may e-mail their comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture to:
millimeter design@yahoo.com or fax to **8474468**

MERCELLES Jewelry

Sales Accounting Staff
Factory Accounting Staff
Designer

- ➢ Female, at least 20 years old
- ➢ Graduate of Business Management, Administration, Accounting, Fine Arts, Architecture, Engineering

2nd Floor, Glorietta 1,
Ayala Center, Makati City

ACCENT·MICRO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

To all Baguio residents
APPLY IMMEDIATELY!

5 PC SUPPORT ENGINEERS

In-house and outbound repairs and maintenance (preventive and sustenance maintenance) of client's PC's notebooks, desktops, accessories, peripherals etc.

Installation and upgrade of operating systems and / or applications

Evaluation and recommendation of security patches for Operating Systems and applications

Evaluation and recommendation of firmware upgrades for approved models of DELL and Compaq models

Deployment of anti-virus patches as necessary

Structured cabling and PC mobility

1 PC SUPPORT SUPERVISOR

Leads and supervise the team of support engineers while performing such scope of work mentioned above. Strong expertise on hardware and other Windows based software programs.

QUALIFICATIONS

Resident or permanent resident of Baguio City
Engineering Graduates preferably Computer Engineering
For Supervisor, at least 2 years experience
For Engineers, at least 1 year related experience on hardware and WIN based software programs
With strong leadership potentials

Mail your resume to:
P.O.Box 034, Pasig Central Post Office Pasig City 1600
Human Resources Department
Suite 1408, 14th Flr., Antel Global Corporate Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
or
Apply online at www.amti.com.ph

Manila applicant's willing to relocate may apply to the above mentioned address
Employer will be in Baguio City on March 6, 2003 to finally select qualified applicants. Deadline of submission is on March 2, 2003.

COMNET

A fast growing group of companies engaged in communications, broadcasting, IT and entertainment is in need of dynamic people to fill up its vacancies.

AREA SALES MANAGERS (10)

Metro Manila, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Iloilo, Tacloban, Legaspi

- Responsible for implementing the Company's business directions in the assigned territory, handles distributors and/ or sales representatives
- Must have a minimum of 3 years sales experience in a supervisory capacity
- Preferably with exposure to consumer durables such as electronics and appliances; and other technology-based products and services
- College graduates; computer literate and not more than 35 years old
- With a valid driver's license
- Must possess strong people management and planning skills
- Familiarity with the above territories will be an advantage

SALES REPRESENTATIVES (30)

for Metro Manila, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Iloilo, Tacloban, Bacolod, Pampanga, Laguna, Zamboanga

- Responsible for servicing retail store outlets and achieving the Company's sales targets in assigned territories
- College graduates 21-27 years old, with good scholastic records and extra-curricular exposure
- Sales experience desired but not mandatory
- With excellent communication skills and personable persuasive abilities
- Must possess a valid driver's license
- Local candidates preferred

SALES OFFICE-IN-CHARGE / SALES ASSISTANTS

- Responsible for providing warehousing and office administration services
- College graduates, not more than 35 years old
- With excellent written and oral communication skills
- Willing to work extended hours
- Must have experience in Sales, Warehousing, Inventory Planning, Office Management or Accounting
- At least 1 year supervisory experience
- Proficiency in MS Office

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE CLERKS

- Accounting graduates
- Good communication skills
- Proficient in MS Office

MARKETING SPECIALISTS (5)

- Has worked outside Metro Manila
- Working knowledge in Information Technology
- Experienced in the development and execution of marketing plans; and the creation and production of marketing collaterals
- Excellent oral and written communication skills with exceptional customer relations orientation
- Proficiency w/ MS Office
- Can work independently with minimum supervision, disciplined, organized, and hardworking
- Willing to travel

MARKETING SPECIALISTS (5)

- Responsible for giving assistance to Marketing Group
- Marketing graduate, 21-27 years old
- With excellent oral and written communication
- Marketing experience is an advantage

SYSTEMS / NETWORK ADMINISTRATION

for Clarkfield, Pampanga

- Male / Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of ECE or Computer Engineering
- 2-3 years working experience in a similar capacity
- Expertise in UNIX, DNS, Mail, Web and Networking Equipment

PROGRAMMER

for Clarkfield, Pampanga

- Male / Female, Graduate of ECE or Computer Engineering
- Knowledgeable in VB6, C or C++, SQL Server, UNIX, MSAccess, Excel, Client-Server Application,
- Networking and troubleshooting
- Willing to work long hours
- Experience is an advantage but not necessary

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID picture to:

HR / ADMIN DEPARTMENT
9/F DPC Place Bldg., 2322 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
mcrillera@dream.com.ph
kigaspar@dream.com.ph

JOB OPPORTUNITIES in QUEZON CITY

"Experience the Magic, Experience the amazing discovery of Math E Magics"

BASIC SALARY GUARANTEED
(PLUS Php 30,000 - 60,000 Monthly Income from various commissions and incentives)

The Company is in need of:

- Hardworking, Aggressive, and Highly Determined Men and Women
- Good Mathematical skills is a Great Plus
- At least 20-30 years old
- With Pleasing Personality and Highly Conversant in English and Tagalog
- Willing to Undergo extensive training
- Goal Oriented and Organized
- No experience is required

***An attractive compensation & travel incentives await qualified applicants**

Interested applicants may apply personally in business attire with resumé and latest 2x2 colored picture on February 24, 2003 (Monday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at:

Suite 311 West City Plaza Building,
#66 West Avenue, Quezon City
(right in front of Goodah Restaurant)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone No. 631-07-60

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER V (Salary Grade 24)

Technical Services Division

- With relevant master's degree and a licensed engineer
- With strong background in school building construction, planning and management, school equipment / materials procurement and forwarding and government contracts administration
- With at least 5 years of supervisory experience in implementation management of foreign-assisted project hardware components
- With technical writing skills
- With working knowledge of computer operations
- With 24 hours of relevant training
- With actual experience in bidding evaluation, contracting, contracts monitoring and evaluation of foreign-assisted construction and procurement activities
- Able to conduct training in such areas as construction management, contracts monitoring and evaluation and suppliers/contractors performance evaluation

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER IV (Salary Grade 22)

Technical Services Division - Procurement Unit

- With at least 5 years supervisory experience in foreign-assisted projects, particularly in the areas of international procurement of instructional equipment, textbooks and other materials
- With 16 hours of relevant training
- Preferably a licensed Mechanical Engineer
- Able to utilize cost-benefit analysis in preparing technical specifications of various office and school equipment
- With experience in preparation of Procurement Work and Financial Plan
- With capacity to give advice on procurement guidelines of funding agencies such as ADB, World Bank, JICA, other lending institutions and donors
- Able to prepare tender/bid and contract documents for procurement of educational equipment and other instructional materials
- With experience in importation processes and banking operations related thereto
- With technical writing skills
- With working knowledge of computer operations

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER III (Salary Grade 18)

Administration & Finance - Budget

- Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job
- With 2 years of relevant experience
- With 8 hours of relevant training
- Career Service Professional
- With experience in control of government budget allotments by object of expenditures, including preparation and updating of RAOPS, etc.
- With experience in government annual and special bufget preparation, requests for realignment and other government budget processes
- With knowledge of computer operations
- With good writing and communication skills

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER III (Salary Grade 18)

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

- Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job
- With 2 years of relevant experience
- With 8 hours of relevant training
- Career Service Professional
- Competent and experience in Project implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- With intensive experience in Research and Performance Assessment
- Competent in M & E instrumentation, data gathering, analysis and interpretation
- With Information Management and Utilization skills
- Competent user of technology tools in research and statistics
- With technical writing skills (specifically on Project Evaluation Reports)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER II - FOR DECENTRALIZATION / ADVOCACY (Salary Grade 15)

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Unit

- Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job
- With 1 year of relevant experience
- With 4 hours of relevant training
- Career Service Professional
- Highly skilled in evaluation of capacity building programs and writing of recommendations
- Has a project planning perspective
- Highly competent in development communications and in technical writing
- Knowledgeable on technology tools for advocacy materials development

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER II (Salary Grade 15)

Technical Services Division - Civil Works Unit

- Licensed Civil Engineer
- With experience in structural analysis and design of various types of buildings
- With experience in foreign-assisted projects and constructions projects implemented by LGUs
- With at least four (4) hours of relevant training in construction management
- With working knowledge in Auto CAD, Microsoft Access and Program Manager
- With good communication skills, both oral and written

DATA ENTRY MACHINE OPERATOR III (Salary Grade 11)

- With at least 2 years of relevant college education and experience
- With 8 hours of training and a Civil Service sub-professional eligible
- Able to provide encoding services and maintenance of an efficient storage and retrieval system of encoded reports, communications and other documents
- Proficient in computer appliation software such as MS Office, Desktop Publishing, Database Management, Power Point Presentation and Internet Operations
- With good communications skills, both oral and written

Should your qualifications meet the above requirements, kindly submit your resumé with 2"x2" photo and an accompanying application letter addressed to:

LOLITA M. ANDRADA
Project Manager, SEDIP
5th Floor Bonifacio Building
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

AVIS RENT A CAR

THE WORLD'S LEADER IN THE CAR RENTAL INDUSTRY INVITES HIGHLY COMPETENT INDIVIDUALS TO EXPLORE EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AS:

SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or related field
- With 3 years work related experience in automotive maintenance
- Good interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Knows how to drive

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

- Industrial Engineering graduate preferred but not required
- 2-3 years supervisory work experience
- Computer literate
- Good interpersonal skills
- Knows how to drive

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Between 25-28 years old
- Graduate of Marketing, Management or Mass Communications
- Must have at least 1 year experience in sales or marketing activities
- Must have a pleasing personality with excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Driving skills is an advantage

RENTAL SALES AGENTS

- Between 21-26 years old
- College graduate
- With pleasing personality
- With good interpersonal and communication skills
- Must be willing to work on shifts
- Driving skills is an advantage

Due to urgency of these requirements, applicants are requested to come personally with their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture from Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

G&S TRANSPORT CORPORATION
2nd Floor Guevent Commercial Center
52 Libertad corner M. Cruz St.,
Mandaluyong City
E-mail: hrd@avis.com.ph

A well-established trading company is looking for female staffers with lots of common sense and enthusiasm.

We need the following:

SALES EXECUTIVE

To handle food service accounts. Enjoys field work. Loves to meet people. Knows how to drive. Computer literate. College graduate preferred.
Salary: P195,000 p.a. plus commissions

IMPORT SPECIALIST

To handle documentation and tracking of inbound and outbound shipments. Knows Customs and shipping procedures. Computer literate. College graduate preferred.

Salary commensurate to qualifications.

COLLECTION ASST.

To handle collection receivables. Pleasing personality. Computer literate. College background.

Salary commensurate to qualifications.

If interested, please send your resumé to:
CSP International Commodities Corp.
18/F Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

ATTN: Mr. Stephen Guina

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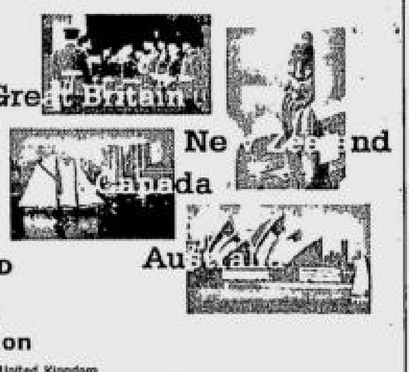
4 COUNTRIES. LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES. Your Choice.



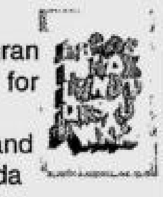
AUSTRALIA, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND & UNITED KINGDOM*
need Professional & Skilled Individuals for **Immigration**

* For those who have relatives working in the United Kingdom

Seminars are held every SATURDAY, 9am & 2pm. Bring with you an updated resume for evaluation. Avail of our Assessment and Consultation after the Seminar. Seminar Fee: P 350. Call for reservation.

How to pass the "IELTS" Seminar

Ideal for Students and Immigrant Applicants for Australia, New Zealand and Canada



For inquiries and reservations:

ADD
Force. Immigration. International. Institute.

5th Floor Pilar Bldng., # 148 Amorsolo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel Nos.: 813 3000 loc. 501, 502 or 503
Fax No.: 818 1055
Email: addpro@add.com.ph

We are an immigration services company, not a placement agency

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THE PRIME GROUP

In our organization, we are motivated and inspired daily by how our business partners realize the benefits gained from the systems we provide for their operational needs.

To stay a step ahead of competition, we are enhancing our sales team and looking for goal achiever individuals and develop them to be in the best position to maintain the solutions provider that we are and better serve the demands of today's business environment.

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

(Manila based)

- ✓ Male or female, 24-35 years old, with pleasing personality.
- ✓ Strong interpersonal skills, results-oriented.
- ✓ 2 years experience in industrial sales and with engineering background an advantage.
- ✓ Strong analytical and conceptual skills.
- ✓ Excellent planning and presentation skills.
- ✓ Team player.
- ✓ Fresh graduates are also welcome.

Address your application to HR Department and submit your comprehensive resumé in person for evaluation and be scheduled for an interview.

Intensive training, industry standard salary with commission, bonuses and other perks may be made available to the successful candidate.

PRIME PANEL, INC.
AFP-RSBS Industrial Park
Km. 12 East Service Road
South Super Hi-way corner C-5
Taguig, Metro Manila
Phone Nos. 839-01-06 to 09/839-00-38
E-mail address: prime@i-next.net

URGENT JOB OPENINGS!

WE NEED TO FILL UP THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ASAP!

- ■ **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**
  F; 25-35 years old; graduate of any 4-year college course; preferably with administrative work experience; good communication skills; computer literate.
- ■ **ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT**
  F; 21-25 years old; Accounting graduate; computer literate; preferably with at least 6 months - 1 year related experience in general accounting procedures.
- ■ **TELEMARKETERS**
  M/F; 19-25 years old; graduates of any 4-year college course; with above average communication skills; computer literate; people-oriented.
- ■ **ACCOUNTING CLERKS**
  M/F; 20-24 years old; Accounting graduate; computer literate; willing to work overtime; Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
- ■ **OFFICE ASSISTANTS / DATA ENCODERS**
  M/F; 19-25 years old; preferably graduates of a 4-year Business course; with at least average communication skills; computer literate; well-organized.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO SUBMIT THEIR RESUMÉ & 2x2 PHOTOGRAPH in any of the following ways:

SEE US at: ATM-PAI
Unit 1610 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 6815 Ayala Avenue North, Makati City (beside RCBC Plaza)

by FAX: 894-5897
for immediate review of papers.
Call for an appointment at: 817-3315 or 812-2654 (Athena, Milos or Randy)

by E-MAIL:
atmpai@operamail.com
(IMPT: No large file attachments please)
Indicate the preferred position in the subject line

Deadline for submission: March 4, 2003

Bioessence

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NOW HIRING FOR:

SM SOUTHMALL, LAS PIÑAS, SM BACOOR, LIPA, MAKATI, Q.C., BINONDO, SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA, TARLAC, CALOOCAN

1. INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER

Male or Female, CPA, w/ hands on experience in auditing, systems review & design, knowledge in taxation, at least 28 to 35 yrs. old, trustworthy and with strong leadership.

2. STORE MANAGER

Female preferably single w/ pleasing personality, 30-40 yrs. old, with strong leadership. Grad. of HR or Business Course, with at least 2yrs. experience in sales & managerial work.

3. STORE SUPERVISOR

Female preferably single w/ pleasing personality 28-35 yrs. old, with strong leadership. With at least 2yrs. experience in sales & supervisory.

4. SALES CONSULTANT

Preferably single, female w/ pleasing personality bet. 25-30 yrs. old. Marketing graduate with good command in English. With at least 2yrs. experience in selling.

5. SALES REPRESENTATIVE

21-30 y[illegible] female with sales background

6. NURSES, PHYSICAL THERAPIST, MEDTECH AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL COURSES

(20 to 25 yrs. old) with pleasing personality

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS MAY APPLY AT #67 WEST AVE., Q.C. (2F STEAK TOWN RESTAURANT) WITH THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS: RESUME W/ 2x2 PICTURE AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS.

LEAR CORPORATION
ADVANCE RELENTLESSLY

Lear Automotive Services (Netherlands) B.V.
— Philippine Branch

***Lear Corporation** is a Fortune 150 company. It is the ultimate automotive interior integrator supplying automotive parts to all major Automakers in the world since 1917. It considers its human resource as its most important resource and Lear has now more than 100,000 employees in about 300 facilities in 33 countries around the world. It's Philippine Operations is strategically located at the heart of the Philippine Export Zone Authority (PEZA), Lapulapu City, housing more than 2,700 employees.*

We are in need of:

Project Engineer

code: PE

- A licensed Mechanical Engineer
- At least 5 years experience in high tonnage building air conditioning system installation
- With good communication and interpersonal skills
- Highly responsible and possesses good leadership skills
- Project term employment estimated for about 10 months

Engineering Graduates

We are also accepting applications of BSIE, EE, ECE, & ME graduates for pooling purposes.

Interested applicants may send:
- Application letter
- Resumé
- 2x2 picture

Address:
Central Recruitment
Lear Automotive Services (Netherlands) B.V.
- Philippine Branch
MEZ 1, Mactan Lapulapu City, 6015

Deadline of submission: March 1, 2003 - Monday

PHILAM GROUP OF COMPANIES

OPERATIONS MANAGER
(Manila/Cubao)

College graduates from reputable schools. With at least 2-3 years supervisory/managerial experience in a financial institution. Responsible for supervising personnel in servicing functions.

ACCOUNTANT (Manila)

CPA, preferably with rating of 80 and above. With at least 1 year experience preferably in an Accounting/Auditing Firm. Proficient in MS Office applications

CHIEF X-RAY TECHNICIAN (MANILA)

Male, not over 35 years old; college graduates; licensed radiologist. Possesses 2 to 3 years' supervisory experience in related field. Knowledgeable in computers, good communication skills and service oriented.

X-RAY-TECHNICIAN (CEBU)

Male, not over 35 years old; college graduates; licensed radiologist. Possesses 2 to 3 years' supervisory experience in related field. Knowledgeable in computers, good communication skills and service oriented.

PROPERTY UNDERWRITER

Female; college graduate; preferably with at least 1 year experience as underwriter for policy

LAY UNDERWRITER

Graduates of PT, Nursing, Public Health and other paramedical courses. Will evaluate insurance applications. Highly computer literate. Willing to be trained. Must have good scholastic standing.

SALES TRAINORS
(CEBU / MANILA / CDO)

22-28 years old. Graduates of business or social sciences course. Will design and conduct training programs for agency managers and agents. Teaching or training experience is warranted. Must possess excellent facilitation skills. Computer literate. Must be residents of said areas or willing to relocate.

RETAINER MEDICAL CONSULTANTS
(INTERNIST / PEDIATRICIAN)

Responsible for rendering consultation services to Philamcare members with medical concerns

SECURITY MANAGER
(MAKATI)

Male, not over 40 years old; college graduate and must have military education. Possesses supervisory skills; 5 years work experience in related field. Will ensure efficient security operations of a building and manage deployment and performance of contract guards.

Be a Part of the PHILAM Family!

Submit your resumé, transcript of records and photos to:
Philamlife-HR.Recruitment@AIG.Com
OR
Corporate HR Makati
23rd Floor, Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati
Look for Kathleen

THE Little gym®

The Little Gym Mandaluyong
Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd.
Mandaluyong

The Little Gym Alabang
Level 3, Festival Supermall
Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa

The Little Gym Makati
Level 1, Bonifacio Technology Centre
31st St. cor.2nd Ave., E-Square
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig

The Little Gym East Quezon City
2nd Floor, Shoppersville Supermarket
355 Katipunan Avenue
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

The Little Gym® is a U.S.-based franchised children's fitness and development center - the first in the Philippines- where motor development, recreational gymnastics, sports skills development, and martial arts classes are provided in a safe non-competitive environment. The curriculum-based physical, social and intellectual development programs are designed by child development experts in the United States.

Our enrollment is growing fast, and we need more great teachers for all our four locations. The most qualified candidates will be required to complete successfully a specialized The Little Gym training program. Instructors who complete training and pass assessment would have the privilege of being among the highest paid teachers in the country. All our full-time staff have health insurance benefits.

Awesome GYM TEACHERS for EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS

For Immediate Hiring

We are looking for applicants who:
- have college degrees and are between 21 and 35 years old
- have backgrounds or experience in early childhood education, child development, special education, gymnastics, or marketing
- speak English fluently and have excellent communication skills
- have high energy levels and are physically fit
- have a professional work ethic and are habitually punctual
- are friendly, great with kids, and enjoy teaching and being with kids.

If you're the one we're looking for, please send your application letter, resumé & passport-sized photo to any of our branches before March 07, 2003.

Only the most qualified will be called for interviews. Applications in person will not be entertained at this time.

Manufacturer of established brand names for local and export market is currently accepting applicants for the following positions:

QUALITY ASSURANCE HEAD

- College degree holder
- Female, not more than 35 years old
- Must have at least 2 to 3 years work experience in a garments company as QA Head or Supervisor
- Quality Assurance experience in a garment export company will be an advantage
- Able to relate with all levels of the organization

VISUAL GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Must be an Artist Design or any related course graduate with minimum 2 years experience gained from a retail establishments
- Can create, understand and translate 3 dimensional space concept into a conceptual drawings
- Has a strong fashion sense and familiarity with style trends
- With strong merchandising and presentation skills
- Willing to travel on extended trips
- Has the ability to work independently while handling multiple projects concurrently
- Not more than 30 years old

JUNIOR GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Graduate of Graphic Design or any related course with a minimum of 2 years work experience from an Ad Agency or Design Studio
- Thorough knowledge of Photoshop, Illustrator, Corel Draw and other graphic softwares
- Preferably with experience in printing process, color separation and direct-to-print media
- Has the ability to work in a fast-paced environment
- Not more than 30 years old

Please send your resumé to:
MK115 c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City

A well-established company has opening for Agricultural Engineering or Animal Husbandry Graduate

Area Sales Manager
Poultry & Livestock Equipment
Luzon and Visayas

We seek experienced and results-oriented people to handle high-level accounts.

- Attractive salary and commission
- Career opportunity and advancement
- Medical and other company benefits

Please send your resumé to:

MCPO Box 2258 Makati 1262

Opportunity knocks but once.

JOB MARKET
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

SALES CAREER

We are one of the largest IMPORTERS of automotive related products in the country. We are looking for qualified applicants to join us in our current expansion program to represent us in the domestic market whose qualifications must be as follows:

- Male at least 25 years old
- Graduate of a 4-year business or other related course
- Must possess a valid driver's license
- Experience in dealer sales or marketing related position is preferable
- Must have good oral & written communication skills in Filipino & English
- Computer background will be an advantage
- Must be willing to be assigned anywhere in the country

We offer a competitive compensation package, which includes allowances, commission and incentives.

Interested parties may send their updated & comprehensive curriculum vitaé, references, transcript of records and a recent 2 X 2 colored photo to:

QCC P.O. Box No. 1756
NIA RD., QC ZIP 1157

We are young. We are dynamic. We seek new blood.

Be part of our team.

PRODUCT MANAGER - Networking

Reporting directly to the General Manager, the candidate will be responsible for developing and implementing marketing strategies geared towards generating revenue through channel partners. Managing the Networking product portfolio, the successful candidate should possess proficient selling skills.

- 25 to 30 years old
- Good working knowledge of LAN/WAN technology and products
- At least 2-3 years experience in a related capacity
- Good communication and presentation skills.

PRODUCT MANAGER - Storage and Servers

Reporting directly to the General Manager, the candidate will be responsible for pre- and post-sale configuration of storage solutions and custom servers. He / she will be tasked with the sale of said storage solutions and custom servers. Broadening the client base will be another task assigned to the Product Manager.

- 25 to 30 years old
- Good working knowledge of Server technology and peripherals
- Familiar with RAID systems and implementations
- At least 2-3 years experience in a related capacity
- Good communication and presentation skills.

PCTrends

Interested applicants, please send resume to:
PC Trends, Inc.
7 Francisco Court, 1st Street, New Manila, Quezon City
or call Tel. Nos : 727-6449; 727-8142; 727-6217
or E-mail us at. hro@pctrends.com.ph

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

BY A MULTINATIONAL POWER COMPANY OPERATING IN BATANGAS CITY

ONE (1) HR SUPERVISOR

- Preferably with power plant work experience
- At least five (5) years of well-rounded HR Work Experience in a plant setting
- Familiar with all facets of HR functions
- Able to work with expatriates
- Good oral and written communication skills

This is an urgent requirement. Only applications received on or before **February 28, 2003** will be processed.

Send applications to:
Kepco Ilijan Corporation, Suite 2501,
Tektite East Tower
Tektite Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
E-mail: recruitment@kellco.com

LausGroup

A Passion for Cars & Customer Care

is now processing applicants for

AVP for HUMAN RESOURCE

Candidate must have the following qualifications:

- Degree in Psychology or Behavioral Science or any relevant discipline, with MBA an advantage
- Between 30 to 40 years old
- With extensive managerial experience in all facets of Human Resource Management
- Preferably has background on legalities & labor relations
- Must possess proven leadership abilities and excellent interpersonal skills
- Must be of impeccable integrity & good moral character
- Exhibits excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- Must be computer literate
- Preferably a resident of Pampanga, Bulacan or nearby places

Qualified applicants may send their curriculum vitaé, photocopy of transcript of records, recent 2X2 photo, together with their application letter to:

The Senior Executive Vice-President
Laus Group of Companies
2/F Carworld Building
San Fernando-Olongapo Hi-way
City of San Fernando (P)
Tel. No. (045) 961-15-09, Fax (045) 961-56-18
Mobile phone no. 0919-604-5209
e-mail address: fddejesus@lausgroup.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

We are a dynamic insurance and benefits consulting firm looking for individuals to fill up the following:

ACCOUNT ASSISTANT:

Graduate of any 4 or 5 year college course. Must be self-motivated and able to work with minimal supervision. Must process good interpersonal and communication skills.

ACCOUNTING CLERK:

Fresh graduate of B.S.C. Major in Accounting. Must be computer literate, analytical, and attentive to details.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK:

Graduate of any 4 year college course. Must be computer-literate, analytical and attentive to details.

We offer competitive compensation packages to qualified applicants. Send your resumé, transcript of records and I.D. picture to the following address, indicating the position you are applying for.

SOLUTIONS INC. (A Milliman Global Firm)
1650 Peñafrancia St., Santiago Village, Makati City
Attention: Administration Manager

Applications may also be sent by fax to 890-2737 or by e-mail to marita@solutions-phils.com if send by e-mail, please don't forget to scan your I.D. picture and transcript.

96.3
LITE
WRocK

THE HEART OF LITE ROCK

is looking for a dynamic

SECRETARY / RECEPTIONIST

Requirements :

* Female

* College graduate from a reputable school

Apply in person : Bring your resumé
with 2x2 ID Picture at 6th Floor, Kings Court Bldg. 2
2129 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

The Perfect Career!

EXPLORE AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY WITH A WORLD-CLASS PARTNER!

We are affiliated with the largest US-based financial services group, and are looking for ambitious men & women who desire to...

- Earn **salaries & benefits** of up to P25,000 per month
- Be trained in a proven success system
- Travel opportunities

Bring your resumé to:

Vision 21
GLOBAL MARKETING

Suite 904-West Tektite Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Come on Tues. (Feb. 25) 2003 at 10am & 2pm

Bellestar

Bellestar, one of the pioneer promotions company which recruits and deploys Overseas Performing Artists (OPA) to Japan.

Today, after 36 years in service, Bellestar has now extended its aid to Nurses and other Hospital workers who want to succeed in US!

From this point on, the company will continue its selfless duty to those who are competent to meet the Corporation's qualifications.

Opportunities in Bellestar is Expanding, Growing and Getting better.

BELLESTAR PROMOTIONS, INC.
1709 Piy Margal St., Sampaloc, Manila
732-1999 / 731-5061 / 711-7177

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An extensive network of insurance service outlets for greater accesibility and convenience of policy holders.

"We've got the leading edge"

We are looking for a

TRIAL LAWYER

Who will be responsible for:

- Attending to court hearings
- Drafting and preparing pleading as assigned by the AVP-Legal/bonding
- Conduct of necessary research as required in the particular case being handled

Applicant must have:

- ✓ a degree in Bachelor of Laws (Bar passer)
- ✓ above oral and written communication skills
- ✓ good interpersonal skills and work ethics
- ✓ willingness to travel

Interested parties may submit their resumé to:

Human Resources Department
3/F Country Bankers Insurance Corporation
648 T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila

JOB OPENING

- **TEACHER**
  (Araling Panlipunan, Arts, English, Math, Physical Education, Science, Preschool)
  - BSE/BSED/Early Childhood Ed. Graduate
  - Non-education course with 18 units in Education
  - PRC license/teaching experience preferred but not necessary
- **GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**
  - AB/BS/MA Psychology and/or MA in Christian Counseling graduate
- **NURSE**
  - BS Nursing graduate with PRC registration
  - Preferably with experience
- **ADMINISTRATION STAFF** - College graduate
  - Bookstore Clerk
  - Facilities Officer
  - Secretary
- **CAT COMMANDANT**
- **SCOUT MASTER**

Applicants should be of good Christian moral character and computer literate.

Bring resumé and transcript of records to:

JUBILEE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Doña Hemady Avenue cor. 4th St.
New Manila, Quezon City

WANTED

MOTHERS

WITH YOUNG CHILDREN (ages 0 to 12 yrs. old) who want to raise the IQ and EQ of their child

If you:

- are willing to work 8 to 10 hours a week around your children's schedule or your current occupation
- are willing to work part-time interviewing parents with young children

We Offer:

- a FREE seminar on how to develop your child's potential for maximum IQ and EQ
- a FREE hands-on orientation using our multilevel and multisensory materials
- an income of P4,000 for 5 to 6 interviews
- a chance to own the programs for your children at almost NO COST

We are a company especializing on this field that gives you the opportunity to earn while you learn on a part time basis

Come for interview:

- **20th floor Citibank Center**
  8741 Paseo de Roxas
  Makati City. Monday only,
  9:00 am to 6:00 pm
- **Room 203 2nd floor Roan Bldg.**
  M. Basa St., San Pablo City
  Monday only,
  9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Please bring your bio-data and a recent photo.

The
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS is looking for dynamic young professionals to fill-up the following vacant positions:

(1) **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER III (SG 24)**
Master's Degree in Management or any master's degree relevant to the job; 4 years experience in positions involving information technology management and supervision; 24 hours training in management and supervision; very good oral and written communication skills; and with civil service eligibility or appropriate professional eligibility for second level position.

(1) **INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST III (SG 19)**
Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Computer Management, Computer Engineering or any related field; 2 years experience in systems analysis and design and computer programming; knowledge in Visual Basic and SQL is required; very good in oral and written communication skills; and with civil service professional eligibility.

(4) **SENIOR EMIGRANT SERVICES OFFICER (SG 18)**
Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Economics, Psychology, Social Science or any related field; very good oral and written communication skills; 2 years relevant experience in research and/or project management; computer literate; and civil service eligible.

(1) **ACCOUNTANT III (SG 18)**
Bachelor's Degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; very good oral and written communication skills; 2 years relevant experience; 8 hours of relevant training computer literate; and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

(2) **INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST II (SG 16)**
Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, Computer Management, Computer Engineering or any related field; with experience in systems analysis and design and computer programming; knowledge in Visual Basic and SQL is required; very good oral and written communication skills and with civil service professional eligibility.

(7) **EMIGRANT SERVICES OFFICER II (SG 15)**
Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, Economics, Psychology or any related field; very good oral and written communication skills; experience in research and/or project management preferred; computer literate and with civil service professional eligibility.

(1) **INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST I (SG 12)**
Bachelor's Degree Computer in Science, Computer Management, Computer Engineering, or any related field; experience in systems analysis and design and computer programming; relevant training preferably in systems analysis and design; knowledge in Visual Basic and SQL is required; very good in oral and written communication skills; and with civil service professional eligibility or appropriate eligibility for second level position.

(1) **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER I (SG 11)**
Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Social Science or any related field; relevant experience in HRD employee relations, training and career counselling; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional eligibility.

(1) **RECORDS OFFICER I (SG 10)**
Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; very good oral and written communication skills; 1 year relevant experience; computer literate and with civil service professional eligibility.

(1) **CASHIER I (SG 10)**
Bachelor's Degree; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional eligibility.

(1) **SUPPLY OFFICER I (SG 10)**
Bachelor's Degree; 1 year relevant experience; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate and with civil service professional eligibility.

(1) **BOOKKEEPER (SG 8)**
Bachelor's Degree; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional or sub-professional eligibility.

(2) **CLERK III (SG 6)**
Bachelor's Degree; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional or sub-professional eligibility.

(1) **CLERK II (SG 4)**
Bachelor's Degree; very good oral and written communication skills; computer literate; and with civil service professional or sub-professional eligibility.

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 picture, transcript of records, and a photocopy of civil service eligibility to:

COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS
Citigold Center, 1345 Quirino Avenue
Corner South Superhighway, Manila, Philippines
Or call 561-8317 or 561-8321 loc. 502 (Look for Liezl or Warner)
e-mail address: cfodfa@info.com.ph

Previous applicants need not apply.

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The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

NETWORK ENGINEER

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Computer Engineering or ECE
- Must have 1-2 years experience in computer networking
- Proficient with E-mail and Internet Administration

Responsibilities:

- Administers E-mail and internet clients on Linux Server
- Provides network technical support to end users
- Troubleshoots complex network and infrastructures issues
- Performs network cabling, termination, testing and installation of Network interface cards

ADVERTISING PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Knowledge in Computer Office and Layouting software operations
- College graduate
- Must have hands-on experience in proofreading and layouting pages/advertisements

Responsibilities:

- Shall proofread and design layout of the newspaper pages and advertisements
- Entertains supplement/People, Events and Products editorial inquiries

CIRCULATION FIELDMAN

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any Business Course
- With excellent customer relations skills
- Familiar with the street network of Metro Manila

Responsibilities:

- Shall visit and monitor agents' sales performance
- Handles inquiries and complaints of agents

DESKMAN FOR ADVERTISING

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- Comfortable with the use of computer office softwares
- Must be systematic, organized, good in coordination and possesses excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- With customer relations skills

Responsibilities:

- Designs the layout of direct advertisements
- Handles inquiries regarding ad placements, materials and deadlines
- Takes reservations for advertising using the computerized ad booking system
- Proofreads and reviews encoded materials and advertisements

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

How to negotiate a high-stakes sale

Dear WW: My boss just asked me to negotiate a big contract on behalf of my company. I've never negotiated anything for such high stakes before. What can I do to prepare?
Ready To Go For The Jugular

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

You know how everything has a slogan these days? "Be all you can be." "Where do you want to go today?" "10% real fruit juice." Well, with all this sloganeering, it suddenly dawned on me that capitalism, the system that pumps the hot air into all those slogans, is, itself, slogan-free. So to fill this egregious void, I developed three slogans and tested them scientifically on a downtown street corner. "Capitalism: Show Me The Money" was my favorite, but turned out to be already licensed by Hollywood.

"Capitalism: Even the Russkies Are Doing It!" had a certain ring. But the winner in a landslide was "Capitalism-get all you can!"

Now, what does this have to do with negotiating? Everything. Most people believe that the goal in negotiation is to get all you can-to vanquish the "opponent" as if you were at war. But negotiation isn't war. It's trying to reach an agreement. And the goal should always be to make both sides come out winners—because that way you can continue to work together smoothly.

So as you prepare for your big negotiation ask yourself the following questions. I've adapted them from a book called Roger Dawson's Secrets of Power Negotiations (Career Press, 1995).

Are you assuming that the party across the table wants the same thing you do? My sister liked green M&Ms and I liked red ones. The beauty of life is that sometimes you can get exactly what you want because the other party's interests lie elsewhere. Take the time to dig beneath the surface to find out what they really want, and you may be surprised to find how easy it is to give it.

Can you get what you want by sweetening the deal for the other party? My brother's taste in M&Ms was less easily solved: like me, he loved the reds. But he also hated browns. So one day I offered a "package deal." I said I'd take all the browns off his hands if we could split the reds. That was our last fight over M&Ms. It gave me terrific insight about how to overcome resistance in business negotiations. And gave my dentist a house in the country.

Can you leave something on the table? Joseph Kennedy, Sr. observed, "Only fools go for the last dollar." You know why? Because most negotiations mark the beginning of a relationship, not the end-and it's tough to develop a positive relationship with someone who feels taken advantage of.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not advocating that you negotiate from a position of weakness. You need to know your interests and be sure they get met. But this is a business negotiation not a bar fight, and the most successful negotiations are collaborative rather than adversarial. Remember, in the words of an English proverb, "a lean compromise is better than a fat lawsuit."

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and Retention Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@working wounded.com*)*

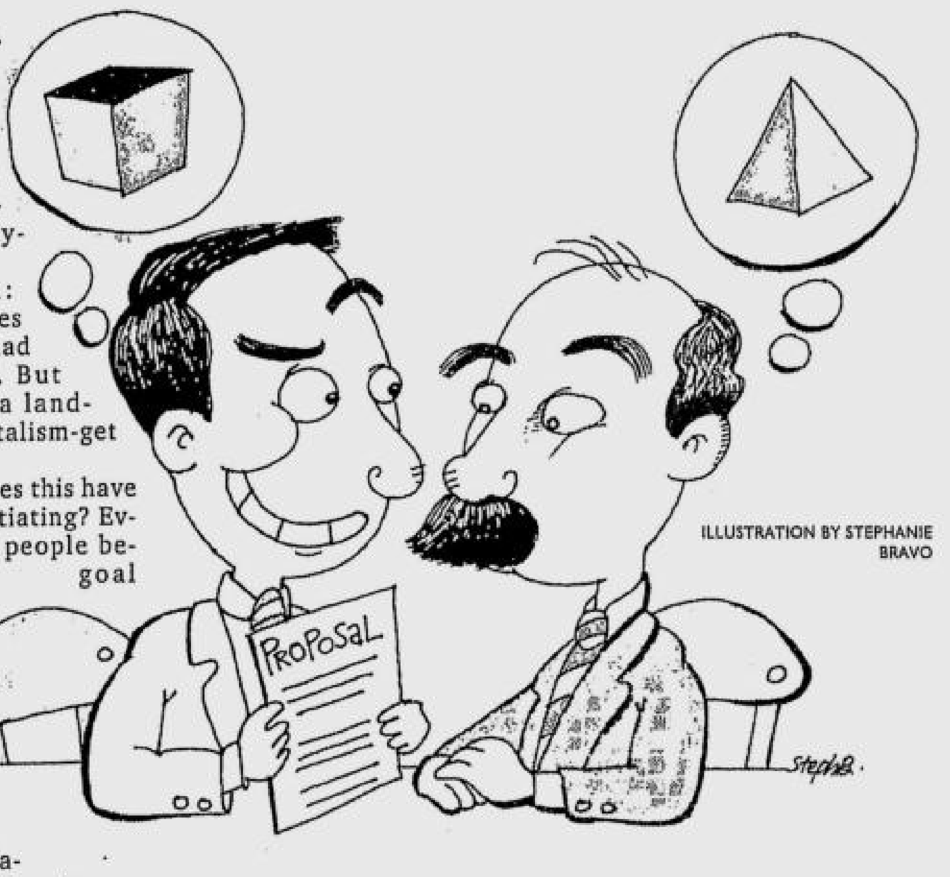

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Sexual harassment and the workplace

PEOPLE AT WORK *Pulse*

PEOPLE at Work and the Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (Ateneo CORD) partner to listen to the heartbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse.

Is your pulse rate a bit too fast due to stress? Is it slowing down due to asphyxiation from traffic fumes? Or is it just beating happily to the rhythm of life? Your thoughts, feelings and beliefs on various workplace issues close to your hearts, when shared, can contribute to transforming our places into more human-friendly places to work in.

This "pulse" check will be conducted once a month. The results of this poll will be published the following month. To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month.

I. Have you ever been a victim of sexual harassment? (if your answer is b, please indicate applicable numbers)

- ☐ a. No
- ☐ b. Yes, through...
  - ☐ 1. Sexual advances/ invitations
  - ☐ 2. Graffiti of a sexual nature
  - ☐ 3. Notes with sexual insinuations
  - ☐ 4. Display/ distribution of materials with sexually explicit pictures or drawings
  - ☐ 5. Sexual gestures
  - ☐ 6. Pressure for sexual favors
  - ☐ 7. Touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front of others
  - ☐ 8. Spreading rumors about or rating other employees as to sexual activity or performance

II. If yes, did you do anything about it? (if, your answer to Q1 is NO skip this question and go to next question; otherwise indicate letter & no. e.g. a2)

- ☐ a. Yes
  - ☐ 1. Exposed the offender
  - ☐ 2. Filed formal complaint to proper personnel
  - ☐ 3. Had person fired from work
  - ☐ 4. Filed a case in court
- ☐ b. No, I just let it be
  - ☐ 1. I didn't know what to do
  - ☐ 2. Fear of embarrassment
  - ☐ 3. Fear of losing my job
  - ☐ 4. Felt and thought that it wouldn't hold water
  - ☐ 5. Didn't want the hassle

III. Does the company you belong to have policies and /or procedures related to sexual harassment?

- ☐ a. Yes, the perpetrator is punished accordingly
- ☐ b. Yes, but it hardly makes any difference—no one ever comes forward to complain
- ☐ c. None, management is indifferent about this
- ☐ d. None that I know of

You may mail or fax this form, email or text your answers to:

People at Work Pulse
Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development
2nd floor Hoffner Building
Social Development Complex
Ateneo de Manila University
Katipunan Road
Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Fax No: (632) 426-6065
Email: *ateneocord@admu.edu.ph*
Cell: (0917) 911-5562 and write...

"(topic) eg: Sexual harassment: 1. (answer), 2. (answer)—name, position, company name and address, contact numbers, e-mail.

People at Work Pulse would also like to acknowledge readers who write to us with their feedback and suggestions. If you have a topic you would like us to feature—let us know!

(Last month's winners are Brenda B. Dela Cruz and Ma. Carlitas V. Hernandez. Call Rochelle Leonor at 8978808 loc. 554)

A Well-Established Industry Leader and Exclusive Representative of International Manufacturers of High Quality Electrical Products is looking for Career-Oriented Professionals for Immediate Hiring.

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Must have an excellent oral communication skills. Ability to communicate in Chinese would be an advantage but not required. Hardworking, honest, resourceful and creative. Salary/compensation package commensurate to skills and performance.

Fresh graduates with good scholastic records are welcome to apply.

SALES EXECUTIVES / ENGINEERS

Male/Female, not more than 32 years old with pleasing personality, graduate of EE/ECE ME/CE/Architecture/Mktg./MassCom./Bus. Mgmt., at least 2 years sales experience. Results oriented and highly committed to meeting monthly sales quota. Priority will be given to those with exposure and contacts in electrical and industrial sectors.

COMMUNICATION OFFICER

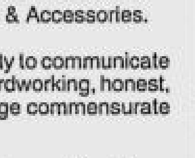
Male/Female, 23-28 yrs. old. Graduate of Mass Communications, Journalism, or Business Management from reputable university. Must have an excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Filipino. Knowledge of Chinese an advantage but not required. Proficient in MS Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) as well as E-mail programs and Internet browsers (Internet Explorer, Netscape). Must be self-motivated, pro-active, resourceful, aggressive. Capable of working independently with minimum supervision required. Flexible, organized and detail-oriented with ability to multi task. Salary commensurate to experience and qualifications.

SALES SECRETARIES / COORDINATORS

Female, single, not more than 26 yrs. old with pleasing personality. Engineering, Math, Marketing, MassCom, Bus. Mgmt., Research, Computer Science graduate. Must have an excellent written and oral communication skills in English. Knowledge of Chinese would be an advantage but not required. Proficient in MS Office applications. Must be proactive, resourceful, and detail oriented with ability to multi-task.

Interested applicants are invited to apply personally with comprehensive resumé, TOR, employment certificates and colored photo (2x2) to:

Le Marben Classic Condominium
676 Florentino Torres Street corner Soler, Sta. Cruz, Manila
(Back of National Bookstore) Tel. 733-83-54 to 56
E-mail: zgchrd@vasia.com
Look for Mr. Angelo Villanueva / Engr. Benjie Rosario



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JOB MARKET
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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Qualified applicants need to join the company by March 3, 2003.

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- Proficient in MS Office and the internet
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules, including graveyard shift
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

As these are URGENT vacancies, qualified applicants are requested come in with their resumes on Monday or Wednesday (February 24 or 26) at 9 am or 2pm at the 23rd Flr, Robinson's Summit Bldg, Ayala Ave., Makati City. Please look for Romina Alcruz.
Highly competitive compensation package and training await those who will be accepted.
Visit http://www.sykes.com for more information about the Company.

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- DIPLOMA
- TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS
- BOARD EXAMINATION RESULT
- RN LICENSE
- CGFNS, TOEFL•TSE
- RESUMÉ
- (3) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM PREVIOUS EMPLOYERS

PLEASE FAX RESUMÉ TO: (866) 815-0635
ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS MAY BE MAILED TO:

Z STAT MEDICAL JOB RESOURCES
80 RIVER OAKS CENTER, SUITE 317
CALUMET CITY, ILLINOIS 60409
U.S.A.

New Job Market revealed at Dusit Hotel

By Chris Vida and Masoy Cabuhat

AN AFTERNOON of fun, entertainment and spectacle awaited Manila's top Human Resource practitioners at the recent Job Market re-launch. Held at the Grand Ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko last Thursday, February 20, 2003, the event proved to be a great success. It served as the venue for the official unveiling of Inquirer's new Job Market.

Registration began promptly at 11:00am. With the ballroom almost filled to the brim, the event was formally opened with an invocation led by Inquirer Corporate HR Services Head, Jesse Rebustillo. Shortly after, a buffet feast was served. At 1:00pm on the dot, an exciting and electrifying opening number was rendered by Bituin Escalante singing Lady Marmalade. Arnel Ignacio, one of the country's most prominent hosts, welcomed and greeted the crowd signaling the beginning of the launch proper.

A special series of inspirational talks from three of the most well known HR experts was one of the highlights of the event. Department of Labor and Employment Bureau of Local Employment Director, Teresita Manzala, was first on the list tackling the current local employment scene with a presentation entitled "Job Opportunities In Local Employment." Second in line was Manila Water and Ayala Corporation HR head honcho, Ramon de Leon, re-telling Manila Water's move to privatize based on HR perspective. Last but definitely not the least was Department of Trade and Industry Secretary, Mar Roxas, who gave his support and endorsement to the new Job Market.

In between speeches, the performers serenaded the guests. Rey Ann Fuentes thrilled the guests with his trademark soulful performance. The Canto Boys gave a sample of their unique R&B flavor and Carlo Orosa impressed everyone with his powerful interpretation of a broadway hit.

The affair wouldn't be complete without ceremoniously revealing the new Job Market. Introduced by Mr. Donald Lim, Inquirer AVP for Marketing and Classifieds, an audiovisual presentation of the new and improved Job Market.

The twelve-minute visual display showcased the new Job Market's features and benefits. From being circulated only within Metro Manila for the past eight years, the Job Market went nationwide only last February 2, 2003 thus, giving its advertisers wider circulation reach and its readers more extensive nationwide job listings. The new improved Job Market has now career information and professional advice in the form of the Sunday edition of People @ Work, in-depth analysis of workplace issues and tips (and tricks) of the trade for job seekers, career shifters and HR-managers. Again, proving the Job Market to be a brighter alternative and effective recruitment tool and a definite first of its kind in advertising in the country.

Afterwards, no less than Inquirer President Ms. Sandy Prieto-Romualdez extended her support and seal of approval for the new Job Market.

Adding more fun to the program, a mind game was done participated in by twenty-nine pre-selected guests. Questions thrown were all about human resource. Also, raffle prizes such as microwave ovens from Samsung, gift packs from Unilever and gift certificates were given away to lucky guests.

A finale featuring Lani Misalucha, the country's Nightingale, who amazed the guests with her singing prowess, capped off the two-hour activity.

HR PRACTITIONERS witness the unveiling of the new Job Market.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

JOB Opportunities in Local Employment, a speech from DOLE Director Teresita Manzala

WINSOME smiles: Inquirer CEO & President Sandy Prieto-Romualdez and DTI Secretary Mar Roxas.

MANILA Water and Ayala Corporation HR Head Honcho Ramon de Leon.

ARNEL Ignacio having fun with guests.

R&B duo: Canto Boys

BITUIN Esclante in an electricfying opening number.

GUEST ARTISTS such as Carlo Orosa, Lani Misalucha, Arnel Ignacio and Rey-Ann Fuentes in their soulful performances.

Diversity makes company unique

By Rochelle Leonor

HR Focus

MADE up of diverse people, the company is as unique as its name, Infonxx. Being an equal-opportunity employer, it employs people of different genders, social stratification and faiths, reveals Joyce Tonson, its director for human resources. And with the rapid growth of the company, Tonson's greatest challenge is managing diversity. She says it is difficult but claims that in the long term, it's going to benefit everyone. "Diversity is what keeps the company going," Tonson says. "It makes our jobs more interesting."

HR directions

Tonsón provides overall direction to the HR team. She hires, inspires and develops customer service representatives (CSR) of Infonxx. She says that since an employee's professional life has something to do with HR, she makes sure that she can provide assistance and direction to her people.

Infonxx is a call center that provides directory assistance to cellular phone users in the US. It manages a database of over 150 million listings and handles about 200 million listing requests annually. In simpler terms, Tonson explains that if a client wants to have a pizza delivered to his home, he can call Infoxx to locate the nearest pizza outlet. The CSR who receives the call will then provide a number of pizza outlets the caller can choose from and from there, the CSR can transfer the call. Or if a caller is lost in the middle of nowhere, he can call the call center to help him find his way. Infonxx also provides information on movie listings, screening schedules and the weather.

The idea started with two Harvard roommates in 1991. While looking at their cellular phone bills, the two realized that the charges for their directory assistance calls were much greater than their actual calls. They figured that there is a need to set up a call center or a provider that would give directory assistance at much lower costs, thus, the birth of Infonxx.

Fast expansion

Presently, Infonxx operates in seven locations worldwide. In the Philippines, Infonxx started with five employees last December 2001. By March 2002, the company was already taking in calls. Presently, the Philippine office has close to 800 employees. Majority of them are CSRs. Tonson is one of the pioneers:

She says that the fast expansion of the company sometimes overwhelms her. However, she is quick to add that it becomes a motivating factor for her to work harder and think of new ways to serve her clients better.

She says she enjoys her work. Sincere hellos from CSRs greet her when she roams the office. The workstations are filled with colorful bulletin boards. Infonxx's recreation room and pantries provide its employees a venue for building camaraderie. And the friendly ambiance obviously keeps things fun for Tonson and the rest of the Infonxx employees.

She says she finds deep satisfaction to see her people develop. "We have people in the beginning who were not star players but have consistently improved," she explains. But through hard work and Tonson's support, a number of CSRs have become supervisors and managers. "That's an achievement not only for me but for everybody."

Competition

When asked whether she finds other call centers in the country as Infonxx's rivals, Tonson quickly says that they're not. She explains that they engage in different services. However, she considers other call centers a competition in terms of acquiring manpower. "We all eye the same labor force—computer literate, good in speaking English," she explains. "But that's all."

Tonson is no stranger to the call center industry. Prior to Infonxx, she worked in the HR department of Hello Corp., a start-up call center. She graduated BA Psychology from the University of the Philippines. Although she initially thought she would go into teaching, having worked as an instructor for the AMA Group of Companies, fate had other plans for her.

TONSON
PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

After only one semester of teaching, she was promoted to guidance counselor. When an HR position opened, she grabbed the opportunity. "I shifted because I saw the crucial role of HR in an organization and I wanted to be part of it," she explains.

She says that so far, her biggest contribution to the company is "having an essential and active role in helping the world see the Filipino talents." Tonson says that some of the local training programs implemented in the Manila office have also been adopted by Infonxx's US offices.

Tonson says she is an ambivert. She likes to interact with small, cozy groups and, at the same time, she also enjoys being part of a crowd. And just like Infonxx's culture, her interests are also diverse. She listens to different music, reads books on any subject, and watches movies and stage plays. She says this diversity helps her become a better HR professional.

Hungry enough to eat a mouse

By Chin

WORKING OOPS!

MY officemates and I thought of having our snacks delivered to our office because we were swamped with paperwork that day. We jotted down our orders and told Mr. B. to dial a fast food delivery hotline. As he was placing our order, we overheard him say, "Here's our order—three fresh *lumpia*, two *pancit palabok*, three chocolate mouse ..." We started giggling, and heard him say "mouse" again. He even asked us seriously, "*Hoy, ilang* mouse *daw*? One whole *ba o* piece?"

Noticing our laughter, he asked us why we were laughing. We explained to him that the correct pronunciation of mousse is "moos" not "maws." Irate, he told us: "*E anong gagawin ko, eh sa hindi pa ako nakakatikim nun!*"

Enjoy your way...

(From page H16)

perks, education, etc. We feel inferior and therefore unhappy when we compare ourselves with our "more successful" co-employees.

We tend to focus on what we do, not on who we are. "I'm only a security guard" is a familiar lament of a watchman. But, whoever you are, wherever you are, or whatever you do, you can be the darned best if you wish to. We must realize that we can't be all generals. But if you are the best soldier there is, then you have every reason to be happy and proud. Honestly, do you want to be remembered as the best sergeant or the worst general?

Socrates once said, "It doesn't really matter if we have achieved wealth, fame or a position of leadership if we have not first become the right kind of person." In short, what matters is who you are, not what you do.

The road to success is hard, competitive and lonely. The least that we can do is to make it fun and enjoy our way to success.

(Ernie Cecilia is president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a consulting firm on business and human resources management. E-mail him at erniec@edsamail.com.ph*)*

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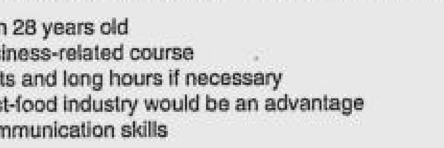
2/F Topy Bldg #3 Economia St.
Bagumbayan (Libis) QC 1110

Or email their comprehensive resume in TEXT FORMAT and position applying for to:
hrd_bk@philking.com.ph
Deadline for submission is on February 26, 2003.

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY.
WE WILL ONLY RESPOND TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS.

Galit na ng nanay ko,
kasi wala pa rin
akong trabaho!



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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Enjoy your way to success

GOOD MORNING!
BARF
ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

DO you feel like practically dragging your feet on your way to work? Does the sight of your officemates and boss make you agonize and feel like having "intentional flu?" Do you think that there are better things in life than go to work?

When work ceases to be fun, the employee does not enjoy his work. He feels lazy, unproductive, unmotivated and even stressed. When this situation occurs, nobody wins. The employee loses self-esteem, drive, and a sense of personal and professional achievement. The company pays the employee good money for going through the motions and not for results that the customer wants to pay for. The customer also gets the raw end of the deal, as customer service and satisfaction are not exactly in the employee's agenda.

So, how can you enjoy your work and succeed in your chosen career? Here are tips to bring exuberance and exhilaration into your work:

1. Look for opportunities to play in your work. Since play is fun, you must bring the elements of a game into your work so that work can be truly fun. In everyday situations, look for the chance to transform your work into a game. I don't suggest horseplay or gamesmanship. Simply find ways to have fun while doing your work.

2. Try to be spontaneous; do things differently. Study your routine at the workplace. Doing the same things over and over can become monotonous and boring. Whenever you have a task to do, try to do it in a way that is different, innovative and fun than the usual way. Don't be stiff with co-employees—be spontaneous in greeting, working, and dealing with them.

3. Accept positive feedback. Sometimes, we feel awkward whenever we receive praises or positive feedback. This should not be so—at least, I refuse to wallow in a culture of undue humility to the point of penalizing good work.

It is common for many of us to either deny or deflect praises heaped upon us whenever we do something spectacular. We deny them by saying, "Oh that's nothing!" We deflect them by returning the compliment right away, "Oh, you look great yourself." Learn to accept sincere praise and feel good about it.

4. Don't let mistakes and failures ruin your day and your career. So you made a booboo and your boss bawled you out—is it the end of the world for you? Just think how many great men and women in this world have committed greater and more crippling mistakes than what you just did. Life must go on. Ignore it even if something like this keeps ringing in your ear, "I know what you did last summer."

When the mistake is so ridiculous, you can even laugh at yourself and have fun. I know this because it happened to me when I was training a large group. I was in front, strutting my usual way as I gave my lecture, when I noticed that everybody was looking at my feet. It was then that I saw that my socks were not of the same color. I just said, "Oh, I have another pair like that at home," and laughed at myself as the audience burst into laughter. I was simply inspired to go through the lecture and had a good rapport with the audience who enjoyed my laughing at myself.

5. It is who you are, not what you do that counts. Many of us tend to wallow in the miserable quagmire of self-pity, as we see ourselves pale in comparison with others. This is because of our mistaken notions about success. Many of us equate success with titles, positions, salaries,

ENJOY YOUR WAY?/H14

Volunteer for Hands On Manila

ARE you interested in getting involved as a volunteer? Come to Hands On Manila's New Volunteers Orientation on Feb. 24, 6 p.m. at the lobby of The Podium and learn how you can make a difference. The orientation is designed to inform individuals and groups about Hands On Manila's volunteer programs and projects. HOM can show you how easy it is to get involved as a volunteer, through volunteer opportunities that suit your interests and schedule. For details, please call 843-7044 and 843-5231 or send e-mail to *homla@info.com.ph* and *handsonmla@edsamail.com.ph.*

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MARKETING BRAND 'YOU'

When you follow your passion, money will follow you

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Regina Galang Reyes

PASSION seems to be a "hot" item nowadays. To date, I have been getting around 20 email messages a week responding to my series of articles on how to discover one's passion in life.

Here's one from the pile: "I read your article two Sundays ago. I was glad to read your article because I am now discovering and pursuing my passion. But things are not that easy for me and like what you have written, there are obstacles in claiming your passion.

"I am a church minister by profession but I am on leave right now because of the sudden death of my wife last year. Lately, I felt that there is something I can do apart from pastoring a church. I feel that my calling is to be a writer; a scriptwriter to be exact, though any kind of writing job will do as for the moment. But with three kids under my custody, pursuing my future writing career is not easy. I have to raise a decent amount to feed my children a decent meal three times a day. Not to mention other expenses that are necessary.

"I tried to take a risk by filing a family leave from my job and that meant I would be penniless for a year just to be able to pursue a career in writing. My first year of quest will be over this June but nothing significant has happened yet.

"I need guidance from people like you. Thank you very much for being an inspiration for people like me who is looking for his real place in this world. God bless your passion!"

Pursuing your passion is tough. But I sincerely believe that when you follow your passion, money will follow you. Passion and prosperity are twins. Why do I say this? You see, if you are living your passion, you will be at your best and do things to the best of your abilities and potentials. And more often than not, excellence is rewarded with financial gain in whatever field.

Your decision to take a risk may seem foolhardy to many people but you can take comfort in the following words from this poem that has been handed down from one trainor to another in hundreds of inspirational seminars:

"To laugh to is to risk appearing the fool;

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental;

To reach out to another is to risk involvement;

To expose feelings is to risk exposing your true self;

To place your ideas, your dreams before a crowd is to risk their loss;

To love is to risk not being loved in return;

To live is to risk dying;

To try is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.

A person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing and is nothing.

He may avoid suffering and pain but he cannot learn, feel, change, grow or live.

Charred by his certitude, he is a slave.

He has forfeited his right to freedom.

Only a person who risks is free."

And may I add, only a person who risks can find his passion in life—and prosperity.

(E-mail rreyes@inquirer.com.ph *for a copy of the "Circles of Passion" or advice on job hunting. You can also tune in every Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. to DZRH on your AM dial for "People at Work sa DZRH" hosted by the author, Reggie Reyes, former DOLE secretary Atty. Benny Laguesma and broadcasters Ruth Abao Espinosa and Andy Verde.)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Minus our crutches

By Teresa R. Tunay

BLAMING others seems almost second nature to humans. When things go wrong in the workplace, our tendency is to find faults in others, often refusing to admit responsibility even when it's so obvious that we, too, are partly to blame. This results in a pattern: the erratic situation is repeated, and without any apparent solution in sight our productivity is impeded. It paralyzes progress in a way, and the only way to break the pattern is to strike at the root of the problem, to stop blaming others and instead start looking into ourselves to see how we have used others as crutches and contributed to the work slowdown.

When we humbly look within ourselves to recognize our blunders and in faith ask for forgiveness from ourselves, our coworkers and God, we get the oomph to start anew and move on. Having admitted our mistakes we try to perform better; having shed off our mask of perfection, we become more pleasant to work with. Like the paralytic in the gospel who had to be carried by four men before, we now start to walk again. This seemingly small development witnesses to a maturing in us that could spread good vibes in the workplace. A know-it-all boss learns how to consult his staff. A cantankerous auditor becomes Mr. Smiley. A quarrelsome partner finally begins to listen. A procrastinating assistant no longer needs reminders to act.

Transformation begins once we get the guts to own our irresponsibility, resolve to make amends, and decide to move on minus our crutches. *(E-mail the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

Gospel: Mark 1:1-12

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven. I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home."

Paralytics at work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

NO matter how capable and skillful we are in our jobs, we can't avoid making mistakes at times. Even if we have made a thorough analysis of the situation, we still make wrong decisions. When we realize that we've made a wrong move and are held responsible for it, human as we are, we seek to free ourselves from trouble either by finding 'valid' excuses and scapegoats, or worse, by covering up the mistake with yet another error. But our maneuvers do not seem to extricate ourselves from the disorder, instead we find ourselves 'paralyzed,' in a rut. How can we be free then?

Jesus freed the paralytic from the shackles of helplessness by first assuring him with his forgiving love, "Child, your sins are forgiven" after which he ordered him "to rise, pick up your mat, and go home." With this miracle, Jesus teaches us that the root of bondage is sin and that the source of true freedom is the forgiveness of sins, which requires admission of our failures and humble faith in God's love and mercy.

We can be the most brilliant executive in the world and still not be a positive force in the workplace if we will only rely on our own skills and cleverness to untangle ourselves from the consequences of our wrong decisions. Admitting our mistakes might cause us the loss of confidence of our superiors, or the loss of the job itself, but if we must move on and reach "home" (which is peace of mind), we must be ready to receive the strength that comes from His forgiving love.

(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net.*)*

sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
February 23, 2003

Amalia Fuentes

Still Fiery After All These Years

In her golden years, the pioneering Lux model revels in being 'liberated' from the limitations of being simply beautiful—and still throws off the sparks that made her one of Philippine cinema's most tempestuous stars

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento
Hairstyle and makeup by Nick Diaz

SHE WAS once hailed as the Elizabeth Taylor of the Philippines. Former movie queen Amalia Fuentes did not lack for tribute to the classic mestiza features that made her one of Asia's most beautiful actresses in the early '60s. As the first Filipina to become a Lux soap model, Amalia proved that local beauties can hold their own against Hollywood stars and previous Lux endorsers Raquel Welch, Jane Fonda, Debbie Reynolds and Jane Powell.

Retired from the movies since the mid-'80s, the two-time Best Actress awardee is hardly a familiar face or name to today's MTV generation. Indeed, the only time she surfaced of late was during a word war with nephew Aga Muhlach when the latter got engaged to Charlene Gonzales and forgot to invite his *Tita* Nena until the last minute, a slight that the outspoken actress vows she will take to her grave. The controversy had Aga's manager baring her claws and dissing the former glamor queen for looking, in her words, as big as an *aparador* (wardrobe cabinet).

By today's waif-like standards, Amalia has certainly let herself go, gaining unwanted pounds that make people do a double take when they see her shopping in Greenhills, granddaughters in tow. She shrugs the raised eyebrows aside.

"People can call me fat; I don't mind," she says. "It's not a crime and I'm not the only person my age who's fat. I know who I am and I'm still the same person no matter how I look. What do I have to prove anyway?"

Her new size represents freedom, she adds. "As a movie star, I had to watch what I ate. I was allowed only one small cup of rice and fish. That's when I vowed to myself that someday, I'm going to eat all the food I want." That she did. During a trip to Europe, the retired movie queen recalls eating her way through the continent, using the Michelin Guide to find the best spots for fine dining. "If this is the consequence of such freedom, then I am willing to accept it. This is my choice."

Indeed, for this eldest daughter of an *Español* trapped in the country during the war, such indul-

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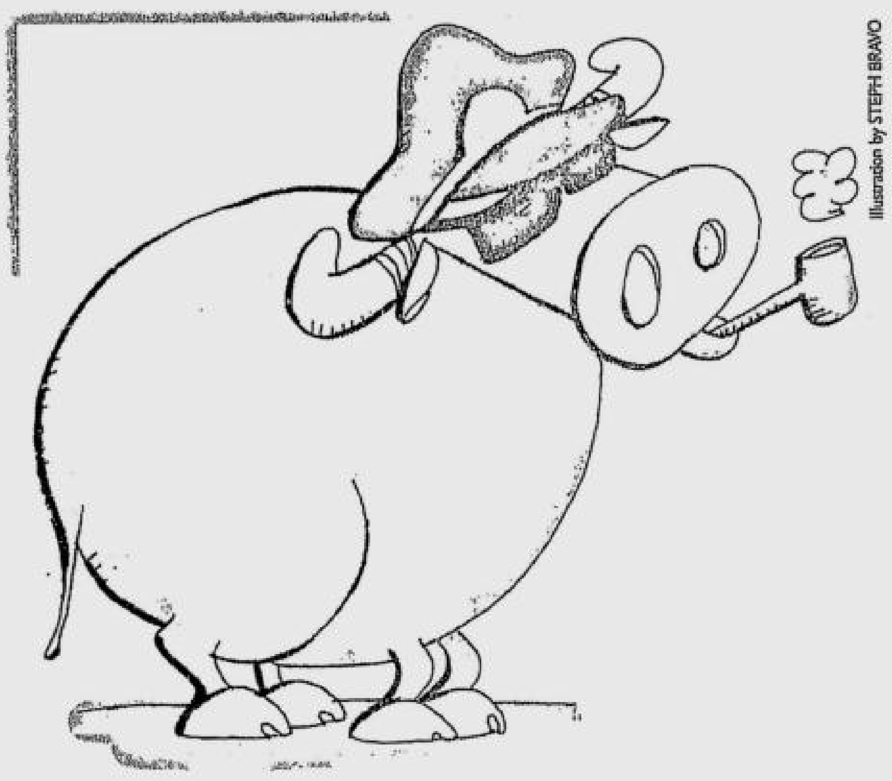

Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

Bulls in Hog Heaven

George Bush the Younger is beloved of the members of the Military Order of the Carabao, a mostly white male fraternity for whom war is peace and peace is hell. In these days of US military buildup, the group is wallowing in the mud of war fever and patriotic cant

New York—Most people might think the 1899 Philippine-American War simply a historical oddity. In fact, the war (as with other US wars in the last century) remains powerfully relevant. By the time you read this, President George W. Bush may already be raining 63 missiles and bombs per hour on Baghdad, for at least 48 hours, in what the Pentagon terms "shock and awe" tactics that will not discriminate between soldiers and civilians—tactics that indeed shock for their repellent nature and fill us not with awe, but with horror. Bush the Younger is beloved of the hawks, and perhaps no more so than by the members of the Military Order of the Carabao, founded in 1900 by white American officers serving in the morally repugnant and racist conflict that enveloped our islands for a decade (though officially Washington declared the war over in 1902).

In a perverse way, the Order honors the Filipino fighters who, though outgunned, gave the American soldiers all the fight they could handle, dragging the war out by resorting to guerrilla warfare. The Order focuses not on the Spanish, who were easily defeated after three months, but on the "niggers and savages," among some of the juicier epithets aimed at our forebears. While educated Filipinos know enough of the war, not so most Americans, who haven't the foggiest notion of what exactly transpired when President McKinley, after claiming to spend the night on his knees—no doubt inspired by Kipling's "White Man's Burden," an ode to the joys of colonialism—decided to "civilize and Christianize" the "little brown brothers," conveniently forgetting that the archipelago had been largely Catholic for over 300 years. That formidable wall of ignorance was dented a bit with a feature recently by Ian Urbina in this city's weekly, The Village Voice (for which I wrote a sidebar on the 1899 war).

Urbina got his information from a guest who's attended several annual get-togethers in Washington that Order members call "the Wallow" (a title more ironic than its members probably suspect). The 103-year-old mostly white, mostly male, fraternity indulges in nostalgia not just for the good ol' days of empire in a Southeast Asian country but for other wars as well. Beginning in 1993, veteran officers of other conflicts could apply for admission. This is a group for which war is peace, and peace is hell, and in these times of an overwhelming buildup of US military might, and deployment of troops and materiel in the Middle East for the inevitable assault on Iraq, the Carabaos are indeed wallowing in the mud of war fever and patriotic cant. The amount of money being spent to support the hawks' addiction to guns is no chicken feed: Military spending per day is $1.08 billion, with war in Iraq estimated to cost $200 billion. To further mix my metaphors, these bulls are in hog heaven.

Top military and government officials, as well as defense industry bigwigs, have attended these events. Colin Powell and Gen. Richard B. Myers, current head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have been guests, Powell on several occasions. When I found out about Powell's presence, I was curious and puzzled, given the imperialist, racist undertones of the whole affair, and of a war where black soldiers were segregated, denied their civil rights back home, and liable to get lynched. But as my white editor at the Voice put it, "I'm blacker than he is."

Indeed, Powell sounds whiter every day, in his role as apologist for the Bush administration. But surely he must have felt some discomfort when the lads started bellowing their anthem, "The Soldier's Song," with its offensive lyrics:

Damn, damn the *insurrectos*!
Cross-eyed khakiac ladrones!
Underneath the starry flag, civilize them with a Krag, and return us to our own beloved homes.

"*Insurrectos*" of course replaced the original "Filipinos" as a cosmetic gesture of appeasement, though now that Bush's view of the world can be summed up as Us vs. Them, "*Insurrectos*" can mean any group or nation seen as a threat (real or imagined) to American global hegemony, and therefore a legitimate target for preemptive strikes, which could very well include nuclear weapons.(Talk about threats to world peace!)

So how come the existence of such an atavistic, jingoistic body isn't well known? Like the Bush administration, with its obsessive secrecy and distrust of the very people it governs (appallingly, I might add), the Order fears light. In naming themselves after the ubiquitous beast of burden in Southeast Asia, they may reflect its simple-mindedness and loyalty to the hand that feeds it, but not that animal's love of light and openness. I suggest the Order rename itself after a more appropriate life form. How about the Military Order of the Cockroach?

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

Dreams Built on Shaky Ground

It's been five months since we said our goodbyes. I tried to live my own life, but it's empty without him. What should I do, Joe? I really want him back

Dear Joe,

I am a 21-year-old Mass Communications senior at a Quezon City university. I am graduating soon and have almost everything planned. There's just one thing, a most important thing, I can't seem to get hold of.

Alli and I used to have what may be considered a perfect relationship. I adored him and he loved me. Most importantly, Alli and I were growing together.

We had an unwritten contract of sorts that we were getting married after his graduation this March. In preparation, we had been visiting furniture shops, scouting for the most economical, but aesthetically viable, designs of sofas, dinner tables and even tableware.

We were negotiating the theme of our future home. He would build a darkroom just for me so that I could continue with my hobby, photography. I was to stop working so I could take care of the kids, and start taking baking and cooking lessons.

I wanted to have five kids but he only wanted to have two, so we compromised and settled on three. One will be the artist-slash-drummer who would take up fine arts in college, another the missionary and the last will be the pilot. Everything seemed to have been a quilt of dreams neatly and flawlessly sewn on the edges.

But it wasn't perfect. Alli and I had been through a lot of challenging times too. We had unsettled differences, problems with past relationships and petty fights. But we'd overcome it all.

We even thought we were going to have a baby, although the pregnancy turned out to be a false alarm. It was a living hell I thought we would never get out of. I had to undergo an operation and was sent to stay in the province for over a month. Although we constantly talked on the phone, he did not visit me, not even once. He continued to live his comfortable life, while I was dying of loneliness, misery and shame.

Not once did I hear that he wanted to talk to my dad. He said we had to wait for the right time because, as of now, he did not have anything to be proud about yet. Despite the hurtful and insulting words I received from my family and the constant urgings to leave him, I continued to stay with him.

I gave up my plans of going abroad to pursue a graduate course. Going there means leaving my beloved Alli behind. And I did not want that. I totally ignored internship offers from Baguio because I knew that the distance would be tough for our recuperating relationship.

But then, something happened, something I cannot clearly comprehend until now. One day, he just said he was letting me go. He said he dated some girl from my old school, some young single mom. He was likewise seeing other "friends" on the side.

It was very painful. But more than the agony, it was the melancholia that comes with it that is more excruciating.

At first, I even forced him to stay with me, believing that it was just a phase.In the end, I had to give up because he wasn't fighting for me. I can't stand the torment of knowing that he's seeing someone else, that he cannot commit himself to me the way he did, when he asked me to be his wife.

Joe, it's been five months since we said our goodbyes. I tried to live my own life, but it's empty without him. I love him so much that not even the most ardent suitors can erase him from my heart. What should I do, Joe? I really want him back.

Jenny

Dear Jenny,

I remember a story about a young girl who was so happy because someone gave her a red balloon. It was all she ever wanted. She wouldn't exchange it for anything in this world. But the balloon wasn't tied well to her wrist and slipped off her hand. She was helplessly crying as she watched it drift away until it was too small to see. Her mom bought her another balloon but she still cried for the one that she lost. She didn't eat and was miserable the whole day. She really believed that soon it would fall back to the ground and she'll get it again.

Most of us, like the little girl, still hold on to things that aren't with us anymore. We try to forget them but deep inside, we tell ourselves that they are irreplaceable. That one day, we can have them again. So we end up silently hoping even if we know we cannot get them back.

It is always wonderful to build dreams of forever with someone. These dreams inspire people to strive and become better persons. But not all dreams are built on solid ground. There are some that crumble when shaken and subjected to pressure, like the ones that you shared with Alli. Obviously, he was only interested in dreaming.

Jenny, there is nothing wrong in loving a person but when we begin to lose grip of our own lives because of love then we are going to do ourselves more harm than good. Most of the time it is what we do not need that we want and it is what we need that we do not want. Striking a balance between the two is difficult because we are usually driven by desire and not by necessity. We act on what we feel and not on what we know.

Let us always remember that losing someone doesn't have to mean losing ourselves. When love leaves us, we just have to let go because, if it is really meant for us, it will fall back into our arms again. And it will just be gone forever if it was never really meant to be.

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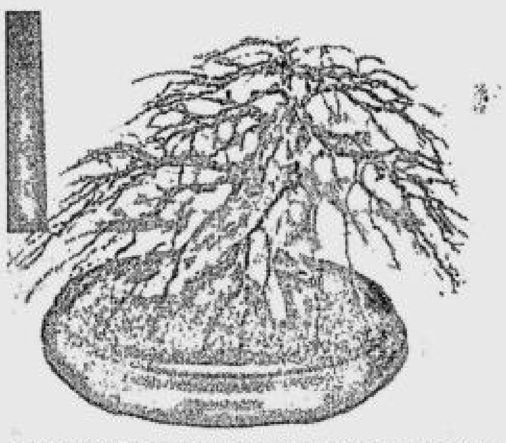

JAPANESE ART AT THE SHANG Shangri-La Plaza Mall will once again host the Bonsai Show 2003 for the benefit of Bantay Bata 163 (Feb. 25 to March 1); the Ikebana-Simplicity in Colors exhibit (Feb. 28 to March 2), and the "*Eiga Sai* 2003: Kurosawa Hiyoshi, the New Japanese Horror Cinema" featuring six critically-acclaimed films by Kurosawa Kiyoshi (Feb. 27 to March 4). For inquiries, call 633-7851. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

ALSO A WINNER

I read your feature, "People of the Year" (SIM, 29 December 2002). I congratulate you for coming up with this kind of article. I agree with you that all the winners made us really proud to be Filipinos especially Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski who won the Asian gold medal in the equestrian event.

I also salute MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando who has done a good job. He is always visible and hard working. I hope that he can really solve our problem regarding garbage disposal.

But another thing caught my attention. I think Arlyn dela Cruz should not be considered a loser. Her experience with the Abu Sayyaf was not a joke, considering that she was away from her family for a long time. For being a brave broadcaster, I think she's also a winner.

Well, a lot of good and bad things happened to our country last year but let's all be optimistic that 2003 will be a better year for all of us.

EMY B. ABAYAN
College of Languages
and Linguistics
PUP, Sta. Mesa, Manila

PROPER ILONGGO

I'm an Ilongga who's currently in the US. The inq7.net website is one link to home in this cold country. I found in your Sunday mag (SIM, 2 February 2003) the following sentence in the story on The Eraserheads:

"Meaning 'to change,'" adds Raymund (Marasigan) of the word *cambio*. "To shift gears. Sa Ilongo, '*sukli*.'"

Cool for the guy to paraphrase, but "*sukli*" is not Ilonggo (strictly speaking, Hiligaynon) for "change." The Hiligaynon for "change" or *barya* is "*sensilyo*." If you mean "change" as in "*pagbabago*", or "to shift gears," then the nearest Hiligaynon translation would be "*pagkambyo*" or even "*pagbaylo*."

Just thought you'd appreciate the subtleties of a dialect we Ilonggos are known to speak so melodiously and hold dear to our hearts.

MELISSA BANDO-MARTIREZ
melissa_martirez@yahoo.com

HAIL THE QUEEN OF TALK

I think highly of queen of talk, Ms Kris Aquino (SIM, 16 February 2003). She always makes sense. She has a unique style of expressing herself and has no pretentions. She is sharp-witted and captivating. The men who had been a part of her life don't know what they're missing. Despite her ups and downs, she is still strong. Keep it up!

AILEEN GRACE JIMENEZ-CONTRERAS
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ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

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Young Achievers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

Knight in a G-string

How a young Ifugao rediscovered his culture and is now working for its redemption as governor, thanks to an insulting question in school

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

IFUGAO Governor Teodoro B. Baguilat Jr. was a third year high school student in Claret School when a classmate asked him if it was true that Ifugao natives were wild, lived in trees like monkeys, had tails and cut off people's heads.

Baguilat, the eldest son of an Ifugao father from Kiangan and a mother who is part Gaddang and part African-American from Nueva Vizcaya, felt insulted. But he could not make a scathing response because, unfortunately, he himself did not know enough about his father's people.

"When I was asked that question I had mixed feelings of anger, frustration and embarrassment. I really could not tell why the Ifugaos lived the way they did," says the 36-year-old Baguilat.

He was so angered by his own ignorance that he made his first leap of faith and transferred from Claret to the St. Joseph's school in Kiangan, Ifugao where he finished high school.

In those two years, Baguilat immersed himself in the community and came away humbled by the richness of the Ifugao culture and the pride that the Ifugaos still take from long-standing traditions that have largely withstood the test of time, like the world-famous Ifugao rice terraces.

"Those two years really helped me. I learned the language and how it was to be a real Ifugao, thanks to my grandparents. Before that, I was a regular Manila boy. I believe that it takes life in the province to build character," notes Baguilat.

When he came back to Manila in 1982 to take up journalism at the University of the Philippines, he thought he would not encounter the same questions he faced in high school, since the state university was touted to be a progressive learning institution. He was wrong.

"I was faced with the same thing. *Iba nga lang ang pagkatanong, pa-sosyal* (the questions were more artfully phrased) like *'Di ba you are wild and have buntot*? At that point, my life became cause-oriented," Baguilat recalls.

He joined the political party Nagkaisang Tugon and the UP Journalism Club and joined protests against the Marcos administration.

Armed with his intimate knowledge of the Ifugao people, he joined the UP Botong Association composed of students from the Cordillera region and eventually became its president. He also became president of the Ifugao Students Youth Association that sponsored information campaigns on the struggle for autonomy of the Cordillera region.

To page 4

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LIFE BENEFIT

YEAR	PLAN 100	PLAN 200	PLAN 300	PLAN 500	PLAN 1000
1	P110,000	P220,000	P330,000	P550,000	P1,100,000
5	150,000	300,000	450,000	750,000	1,500,000
10-20	200,000	400,000	600,000	1,000,000	2,000,000

ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFIT

The benefits indicated in the Table of Life Benefits above will be doubled in case of death due to accident.

HOSPITALIZATION BENEFITS

DAILY HOSPITAL CASH

1	P300	P600	P900	P1,500	P3,000
5	420	840	1,260	2,100	4,200
6-20	450	900	1,350	2,250	4,500
MAXIMUM	300,000	600,000	900,000	1,500,000	3,000,000

DAILY DREAD DISEASE BENEFIT

The benefits indicated in the Table of Daily Hospital Cash will be doubled in case of hospital confinement due to cancer, leukemia, multiple sclerosis, poliomyelitis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, or cirrhosis of the liver.

CONVALESCENCE BENEFIT

1	P3,000	P6,000	P9,000	P15,000	P30,000
5	4,200	8,400	12,600	21,000	42,000
6-20	4,500	9,000	13,500	22,500	45,000

MAXIMUM SURGICAL BENEFIT

1	P3,000	P6,000	P9,000	P15,000	P30,000
5	4,200	8,400	12,600	21,000	42,000
6-20	4,500	9,000	13,500	22,500	45,000

GUARANTEED CASH BONUS

AGE	PLAN 100	PLAN 200	PLAN 300	PLAN 500	PLAN 1000
18-29	P43,000	P86,000	P129,000	P215,000	P430,000
30-34	49,000	98,000	147,000	246,000	492,000
35-39	59,000	119,000	179,000	298,000	597,000
40-44	76,000	153,000	230,000	383,000	767,000
45-49	101,000	202,000	304,000	506,000	1,013,000
50-54	137,000	274,000	412,000	687,000	1,374,000

TABLE OF LOW MONTHLY PREMIUMS
(10 Years to Pay - 20 Years Full Coverage)

AGE	PLAN 100	PLAN 200	PLAN 300	PLAN 500	PLAN 1000
18-29	P158.95	P317.95	P477.95	P796.95	P1,593.95
30-34	181.95	363.95	545.95	910.95	1,821.95
35-39	220.95	441.95	662.95	1,104.95	2,208.95
40-44	283.95	567.95	851.95	1,419.95	2,839.95
45-49	374.95	749.95	1,124.95	1,875.95	3,750.95
50-54	507.95	1,016.95	1,524.95	2,541.95	5,084.95

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FULL NAME (Mr. Mrs. Ms.) ____________ *(PLEASE CIRCLE)* First Middle Last

COMPLETE ADDRESS ____________ Zip Code

TEL. NO. ____________ CELL NO. ____________

DATE OF BIRTH ________ *Month/Day/Year* PLACE OF BIRTH ________ AGE ____ ☐MALE ☐FEMALE Ht. ____ Wgt. ____

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION ____________

SPECIFIC DUTIES ____________

COMPANY ____________ TEL. NO./FAX ____________

BUSINESS ADDRESS ____________ Zip Code

FULL NAME OF BENEFICIARY ____________ *(For Life Benefit)* ☐ Revocable ☐ Irrevocable

RELATIONSHIP TO YOU ____________ AGE ____

Please check the Plan you require:
☐ Plan 100 ☐ Plan 200 ☐ Plan 300 ☐ Plan 500 ☐ Plan 1000

(Fill-out if you wish to enroll your spouse)

FULL NAME (Mr. Mrs.) ____________ *(PLEASE CIRCLE)* First Middle Last

Please check the Plan your spouse requires:
☐ Plan 100 ☐ Plan 200 ☐ Plan 300 ☐ Plan 500 ☐ Plan 1000

DATE OF BIRTH ________ *Month/Day/Year* PLACE OF BIRTH ________ AGE ____ ☐MALE ☐FEMALE Ht. ____ Wgt. ____

SPOUSE'S OCCUPATION/PROFESSION ____________

SPECIFIC DUTIES ____________

SPOUSE'S BENEFICIARY ____________ *(For Life Benefit)* ☐ Revocable ☐ Irrevocable

RELATIONSHIP TO SPOUSE ____________ AGE ____

PLEASE CHECK "YES" OR "NO" TO EACH QUESTION

	YOU YES	YOU NO	YOUR SPOUSE YES	YOUR SPOUSE NO
1. Have you or your spouse (if to be insured) consulted any doctor for medical treatment or advice for treatment, or confined in a hospital, clinic, or similar institution during the past five years?				
2. Have you or your spouse (if to be insured) ever been advised that you had: heart trouble, high blood pressure, cancer, diabetes, epilepsy or tuberculosis?				
3. Are you or your spouse (if to be insured) aware of any impairment to your health, or physical condition?				

If you answered yes to any of the questions, please give the full details:
(Use separate sheet if necessary)

Person Treated ____________ Physician's Name ____________

Name of Hospital ____________ Address ____________

Date and Nature of Consultation / Sickness / Impairment ____________

YOUR SIGNATURE✓ ____________ *(Sign - do not print)* DATE ____________

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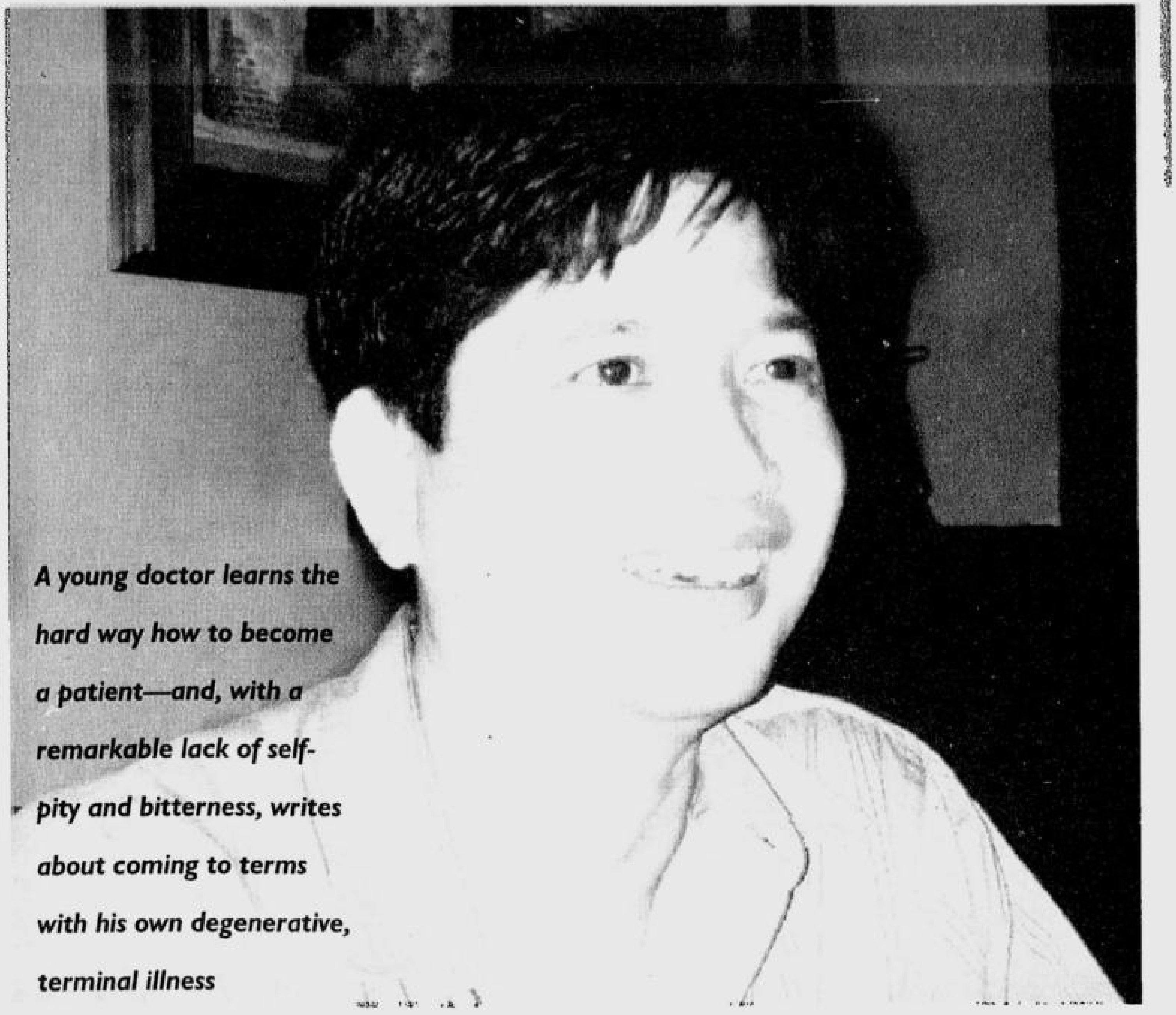
First Person

By Dr. Edel G. Dipasupil

Living in the Face of Death



A young doctor learns the hard way how to become a patient—and, with a remarkable lack of self-pity and bitterness, writes about coming to terms with his own degenerative, terminal illness

IT WAS Christmas Day 2001, and Fr. Robert Reyes was greeting everyone in the church yard. "Merry Christmas!" he said, and I stammered my reply. "What happened to you?" he asked. "Did you have a stroke?" I told him I have Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis or ALS. It didn't ring a bell at first; even with some doctors, it wouldn't. Have you read the novel "Tuesdays with Morrie"? Well, I'm a doctor, an obstetrician and gynecologist, but I also have the same disease that Morrie had.

It was April 2000, while talking to my wife Carina over dinner, when I first noticed my speech getting slurred. A month later, while I was clarifying a point during a post-graduate conference of OB-Gynecologists, I wondered why everybody was staring at me. The following day, Dr. Amy Estrella, one of my colleagues in Cardinal Santos Hospital, paid me a visit in my clinic. She had the guts to say, "I know you didn't have one too many because I can't smell any alcohol on you, but Edel, you are slurring! Please find time to consult a neurologist."

I consulted Dr. Carandang, my neurology professor in medical school. I was scheduled for an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) on June 21, probably the longest day of my life. My wife and I attended Mass in the morning before proceeding to the hospital. I felt like I was in a coffin while the MRI was being done. I prayed that it would be negative. It was. I thought the worst was over.

Next, I was scheduled for an EMG (electromyography) to check for a lower motor neuron problem. Now I knew how it was to be a patient. The only consolation I had was that the test was negative again. I had myself checked for the next couple of days—my heart, lungs, liver, kidney. Everything was normal.

I consulted two more neurologists, and was referred to a movement disorder specialist. This was the start of a long journey of tests: hormonal evaluations, neurologic scans, more MRIs and EMGs. This meant spending the family's financial reserves. I even had to send my blood several times to the United States for chromosomal studies, one of which revealed an intolerance to the protein gluten. I started on a gluten-free diet, skipping bread, cakes, pastries, pasta, pizza, beer, and most processed meat like hotdogs and burgers.

I was also referred to Dr. Carissa Dioquino, a neuro-toxicologist, for toxic chemical evaluation. She was the sixth neurologist to see me. I had as many diagnoses as the neurologists who had seen me, but she was the first to consider ALS. At that time, I didn't want to believe her. Since western medicine couldn't answer my questions, I consulted Dr. Eddie Concepcion, a medical acupuncturist and a friend. I still see him regularly.

Before my slurring developed, I had the feeling of immortality. I told myself I was a doctor and I could take care of myself. I had patients who thought I had saved their lives, and I shared this illusion. I thought I would never get sick. But the slurring became a humbling experience. During those trying times, I prayed to God that I would know what was wrong. I also prayed that I would get well.

By the end of May 2001, I had a repeat of the EMG. Finally it was positive.

Better known in America as Lou Gehrig's disease, ALS is a progressive degenerative disease of both the upper and the lower motor nerve cells or neurons. A stroke affects only the upper neurons in the brain, while diseases like the Guillain Barre Syndrome affect only the lower neurons. So ALS affects everything from the brain to the spinal cord to the voluntary muscles. This means that if the neurons degenerate, the muscles won't be stimulated, hence they cannot move. They consequently atrophy or shrink. The muscles in my mouth were affected first, which explained my slurring. If my arms were affected, I wouldn't be able to write or even move them. If my legs were affected, I wouldn't be able to walk. If the whole of my throat were affected, I wouldn't be able to swallow, and this would mean goodbye to eating. And if my chest and diaphragm were affected, I wouldn't be able to breathe, and this would mean goodbye, period.

The ALS I had is what they call the bulbar type, because it affects the brainstem first, hence affecting my speech. According to statistics, the usual ALS has a survival time of three to five, and rarely, 10 years. The bulbar type has a survival time of one to three years, due to its faster course, and since patients are prone to choking.

At present, there is no cure for ALS. Riluzole, a drug introduced in 1996, only delays the progression of the disease in 30-40 percent of the cases. Even if it buys time for the patient, it costs a burden. All other treatment programs are experimental. Supportive therapy is employed later in the disease process. A gastrostomy tube is inserted into the stomach when the patient cannot eat anymore. He eventually gets hooked to a respirator when breathing becomes a problem. At present, I continue to search for a possible cure, or something that might even just arrest the process. I continue to explore the experimental regimens of western medicine as well as the eye-opening programs of alternative medicine.

Word got to my friends that I was sick of ALS. My high school classmates from San Beda weren't taking any chances; they insisted that I should go to the United States for confirmation. They even provided my airfare just so that I would go!

Friends from college were concerned, too. There were friends from the UP Student Catholic Action group, the organization that filled my college life with nationalism, social awareness and faith in God. They started a series of fundraising shows for my therapy. Other friends lent a hand. I didn't expect that people cared so much. I was so moved by their concern that I cried for the first time in 14 years—since my father died.

In October 2001, Carina accompanied me to Boston where I was seen by Dr. Peter Siao, a Harvard-trained Filipino neurologist who headed the Neuro-Physiology section at the Massachusetts General Hospital. The tests took another three hours, and in the end it definitely confirmed the diagnosis of ALS. Dr. Siao was saddened, because he had hoped to give me good news.

My slurring had begun in April 2000, and at the same time I noticed I was having trouble playing my saxophone. There were lots of muscle twitching on my arms and legs. By the start of 2001, I was having a hard time doing sit-ups and lifting weights. By April 2001, ad libs on the piano were impossible. Dexterity was gone. While performing a hysterectomy the following month, I wasn't able to open my right hand after I clamped the bleeder. Muscle spasms were getting frequent. My slurring worsened; oftentimes I was mistaken for drunk. My penmanship appeared no better than my 7-year-old daughter's script. By November, Dr. Siao noticed that both of my arms were already weak. I also had the characteristic spastic gait when I walked. I choked on my own saliva whenever I lay down flat while sleeping, so I had to turn sideways or face down. While putting on the Christmas lights outdoors, I fell on concrete steps. I was immobilized for half an hour and almost broke a rib.

At the beginning of 2002, I felt occasional twitching in my diaphragm. By February, I needed help in dressing up because I couldn't raise both arms anymore. Taking little mouthfuls and drinking thick fluids minimized choking during meals. The following month, the muscles in both arms had shrunk, causing severe shoulder pain frequently. I suffered more falls.

One can just imagine the handicaps that might develop in the near future, but these will not prevent me from living my life. I am still happy because God has given me family and friends who are so supportive. Presently, I can still drive; the only difficulty is in putting on the seat belt. I am also writing a book, with the help of a PC, using only my two middle fingers and my left thumb. Despite my illness, I thank God because my cognitive functions were spared.

When ALS was first being considered, I got depressed. I even told my father-in-law that I would not have married Carina, had I known this was going to happen to me. But the moment I accepted that I have ALS, the depression left me.

The key was how and why I accepted that I was ill. The popular notion of accepting illness because that's what God gave you is unfounded dogma. This is the reason a lot of people blame God for their illness. The real problem, I guess, is that everyone wants to go to heaven, but nobody really wants to go through suffering and death.

My acceptance of my illness paved the way for my spiritual preparation. I remember attending a healing service by a nun in Tagaytay when I saw the actress Nida Blanca bringing her mother to the nun. Of those who were present, no one thought that the actress would die ahead of all of us, most of whom were sick or terminally ill. Or who would ever think that another celebrity, Rico Yan, whom I stumbled into in San Francisco some months before his death, would die ahead of me? In short, it can be a blessing if one is terminally ill, because he can prepare himself to meet his Creator.

That Christmas day, Fr. Robert invited Carina and I to his office. I related to him what I had undergone. He gave us his blessings, and informed me that he had organized a forum for the terminally ill and the aged, because he was inspired by how Morrie, the character in the book, had accepted death. I'm just 43, but I do fit into the group. They call it the Tuesday Circle, and invited me to attend it. After a couple of sessions, he asked me if I could contribute an article to the book the Tuesday Circle will be coming out with.

Death and disease do not come from God. Death and disease come from the kind of food we eat, other things that we take into our bodies (like cigarette smoke), toxic chemicals from our environment, sedentary activity, trauma, infections, our genetic make up and old age. So my advice to people who are well is, take care of yourselves. Have a good diet, don't smoke, don't drink alcohol, don't take drugs, and exercise regularly. One can prevent a lot of illnesses. It's very rare to have an illness like mine, so live cleanly. And especially for those who are sick, continue to have faith in the Lord. The more you get to know Jesus, the more we can recognize Him in our everyday lives.

Knight

...from page 3

His efforts at changing people's misimpressions of upland Filipinos from the Cordilleras did not wane when he first joined government in 1987 as an executive assistant to an undersecretary of the Environment and Natural Resources department.

His stint in government was shortlived, however. He was frustrated by bureaucratic processes that slowed down efforts to reform and protect the environment. He then decided to tackle the same issue through the private sector.

In 1990, he became editor of the now-defunct People's News Service, an issue-oriented local news agency, and in 1991, became involved in efforts to push for sustainable development through the Philippine Ecological Network.

Exhilarated by this chance to do his bit for sustainable development especially for his people, he took his second leap of faith. He resigned from PEN in 1991, packed his bags and left for Ifugao yet again to establish a foundation.

"I got together a core group to form the board of trustees and talked to people who were willing to help," Baguilat recounts. In the midst of these organizing efforts, his elders approached him and broached the idea of him joining the 1992 elections as Kiangan councilor.

"There was a clamor for younger, more progressive political personalities at that time. They said that since I was willing to stay permanently in Kiangan, I should consider entering politics. They said that if I wanted to change something for the community, I should do it from inside," he adds.

Baguilat was initially reluctant to run for public office as his previous stint in government had left him frustrated. But he was heartened by the then newly-passed Local Government Code that gave local government units more flexibility and room to implement the reforms they wanted.

Politics is nothing new to the Baguilat family. His grandfather was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention and was former deputy governor for Ifugao at the time when Ifugao was still a sub-province of Mt. Province. A great-great grandfather was also an assemblyman during the Commonwealth era.

The younger Baguilat thus took up the challenge and ran for councilor in the May 1992 elections. He ended up with the third highest votes and in three years did not disappoint his supporters as he worked for different projects especially in the fields of education and culture.

From councilor, Baguilat became mayor in 1995 and in 1998 handily won a second term. In 2001, he made his third leap of faith and ran for governor as an independent candidate. He won hands down despite meager funds and a lack of machinery on a platform of new politics devoid of graft and corruption and the usual trappings of power, such as a contingent of bodyguards or a fleet of cars, houses and even women.

So far he has joined national efforts to preserve the Ifugao Rice Terraces and was instrumental in setting up the Ifugao School for Living Traditions which teaches the Ifugao youth key elements of their culture such as the *hudhud* (epic), *alim* (ritual chant), loom weaving and *baya* or rice wine making.

Baguilat is so proud of his culture that he even exchanged his suit and tie for a traditional Ifugao costume when he took his oath of office as governor in 2001.

Programs to save the culture and the environment may be viewed as quixotic, perhaps even irrelevant by some, but then Baguilat has always been a romantic, believing that people will support programs like these. Along the way, the single and available Baguilat, who views himself as a "romantic knight," might even find the courage to take a lifelong partner who shares his vision.

Wanya Morris, Nathan Morris and Shawn Stockman aka Boyz II Men bask in the love of the Valentine's crowd

A *Valentine* to Remember with Boyz II Men

When pop superstars show up in the Philippines, all of Manila usually starts buzzing. Even the rumor that R&B supergroup Boyz II Men were actually considering performing here on Valentine's Day had tongues wagging all over the place. Rumor became reality last February 14 as SMART, together with co-presentors JAG Jeans and New Close-Up Lemon Mint brought Boyz II Men in front of a wild crowd of over 22,000 people at The Fort Open Field.

The trio composed of Nathan Morris, Shawn Stockman, and Wanya Morris brought their trademark R&B grooves and harmonies to a Philippine audience long awaiting their arrival. After the highly successful concerts by pop-rock band Stephen Speaks a week before, Boyz II Men served as the second leg of Amazing Rhythms: The SMART Concert Series". The three Philadelphia natives made known what they had in store, even telling prospective concert-goers a day before the show to "just wear sneakers and comfortable clothes 'cause we are going to party and have a good time!"

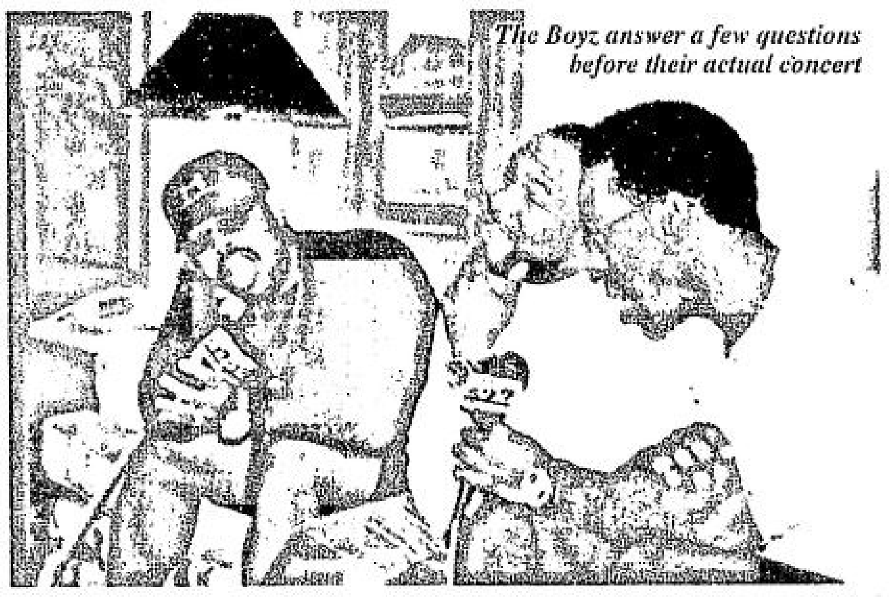
The guys more than lived up to the hype as they performed such classics as "On Bended Knee" and "Four Seasons of Loneliness" from the outset. Wanya had the crowd eating out of his hands as he went through a veritable vocal obstacle course in the middle of the concert. By the time the first few notes to "End of the Road" began playing, everyone had gotten off their seats and sang along gamely. Other monster hits followed like "I'll Make Love to You", "Water Runs Dry", and "The Color of Love", and the group never seemed to lose their energy throughout.

On a cool Valentine's night, the tens of thousands who made the pilgrimage to The Fort didn't seem to mind the traffic outside thanks to the Boyz's beautiful blending. Near the end of the show, Wanya was so moved by the audience response that he said, "We've felt more love here than we have all year long." About an hour before the concert, some lucky SMART subscribers had a bigger treat waiting for them. After they SIM swapped to SMART at participating JAG Boutiques, they were included in a raffle for the chance to meet and greet Boyz II Men! Sure enough, dreams were fulfilled that evening as they gained a once in a lifetime chance to shake hands and have their pictures taken with the R&B giants.

Known worldwide as purveyors of romance and soothing music, Shawn had the crowd screaming even louder when he stated, quite matter-of-factly, "Without question, the Philippines has the most beautiful, beautiful women we have ever seen anywhere in the world!" Singing hit after hit from their landmark albums "Cooleyhighharmony", "II", "Evolution", and "Full Circle", this was truly a Valentine's Day to remember for all in attendance.

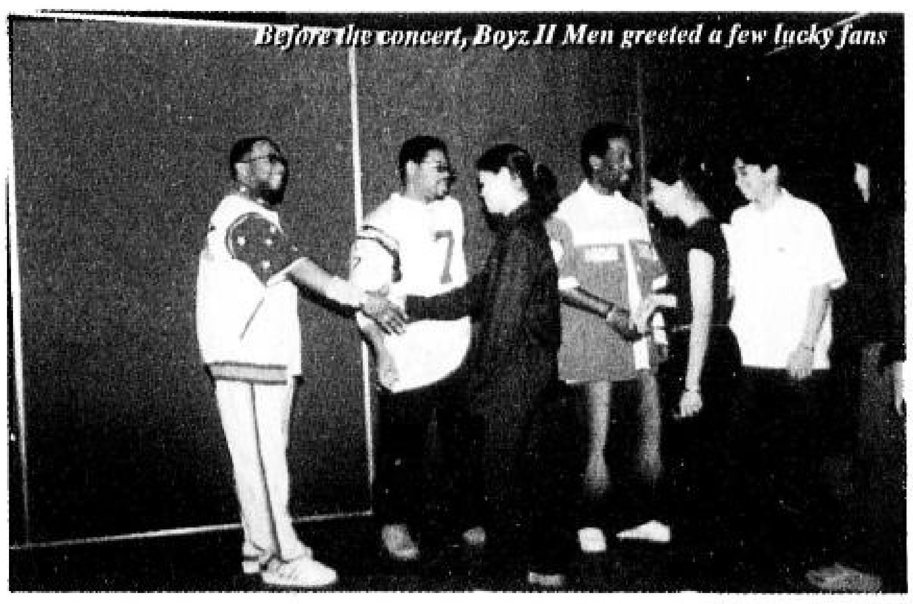
How perfect was it to have Boyz II Men performing those wonderful ballads on Valentine's? Only SMART can bring international recording artists like Boyz II Men to the Philippines. SMART is the undisputed market leader in wireless communications, with superior coverage and services, strengthened with over 8 million SMART Buddy, SMART Gold and Talk 'N Text subscribers on the SMART Network.

Even after the last few melodies of "Doin' Just Fine" and "Mama" evaporated into the Makati night, everybody left with satisfied smiles on their faces. They weren't sad that the show had ended abruptly though. As Nathan acknowledged that "We all know you've been waiting for us a long time," he quickly added that "the next time won't be as long." The Boyz seem sure to return, and the romance will undoubtedly live on.



The Boyz answer a few questions before their actual concert

The Fort Open Field was filled to the brim for this R&B spectacular



Before the concert, Boyz II Men greeted a few lucky fans

[illegible] SMART SIM swappers were fortunate enough to meet and greet the trio

ADVT

Artwatch

Text and photograph
by Elizabeth Lolarga

Home Where His Art Is

Talented Bohol painter Rosalio Ortiz, whose works are currently on exhibit at the Met along with those of other Boholano artists, shunned fame and fortune in favor of a simple life in his own province

TO GET to the house of painter Rosalio Acebes Ortiz, fly first to Tagbilaran City, Bohol, then hire a car that will take you to a house by the sea, no less, in a *callejon* of Barangay Looc, where you might find Ortiz in a white *kamiseta* and khaki pants astride a motorcycle, about to leave on an errand.

This 71-year-old man won the first prize in the 1954 Shell National Students Art Competition's conservative category, besting Ong Bun Gian and Nicolas Villanueva. All three were from the University of Santo Tomas. In the modern category, Federico Aguilar Alcuaz of the University of the Philippines won the top prize.

Unlike previous and subsequent contest winners like Jose Joya, Angel Cacnio, Manuel Rodriguez Jr., Ang Kiukok, Rosario Bitanga, Angelito Antonio, Norma Belleza, Danilo Dalena, Alfredo Liongoren and others who made names for themselves and turned Manila and its nearby environs into their base, Rosalio resisted the allure of the city and returned to his hometown.

He was a boy of three, the youngest of five children of Casimiro and Modesta Ortiz, when his father, the chief steward of a ship, fell into the sea. He was still alive when he was recovered, but he fell ill and later died of tuberculosis.

The mother started selling salted fish. While her other children did fairly well in school, the boy Rosalio, who confessed to having been "spoiled" by her, skipped classes to play with his gang or read about cowboys from American comics.

His older brother Francisco saw his talent for drawing and suggested that he take up architecture. Rosalio refused, saying he was poor in math. Through his mother's and Francisco's efforts, he was able to pay for his tuition at the UST where he took up fine arts, majoring in painting.

He recalls that his professors, Vicente Manansala, Victorio Edades, Diosdado Lorenzo, Antonio Llamas and Francisco Montes, left their students on their own most of the time. He said, "I thought that they would teach us techniques step by step. But after the roll call, they let us be. They would go out. Sometimes I'd go out too to meet my friends, watch a movie, then return to the classroom for the next roll call before the class was dismissed."

He managed to pass his classes in perspective, art history and anatomy. A professor required a landscape with a Philippine motif at the end of a semester and told Rosalio and his classmates that they had the option to join the Shell contest or not.

The student says, "I did not want to join. I knew that it was hard to win, but I was given this entry form."

He filled it up nevertheless on the last day of submission of entries. There was another setback—his pension from his family in Bohol had not arrived so he could not buy art materials.

A classmate took pity on him and gave him a piece of plywood. A janitor at the university scrounged around for rejected frames from the office of the dean of fine arts and found one. The same janitor gave Rosalio the title for his entry, the oil painting "Fisherman's Hut," which he started doing at 2 p.m., three hours before the 5 p.m. deadline.

It was the third year of the competition, and the number of entries, some from as far as Piddig in Ilocos Norte and Davao, totaled 316. The judges for the conservative category were architect Luis Ma. Araneta, Gilbert Perez and Felipe Resurreccion Hidalgo.

Rosalio lived in a boarding house on Catalonia Street, Sampaloc, Manila. His fellow Boholanos there told him, "*Salio*, you won the contest." The painter was skeptical so he and a companion went to the Northern Motors Showroom to verify what they heard. After the confirmation, he received his prize of P300. "I was still spoiled then. My mother paid for my graduation fee, but some of my courses were incomplete, and I did not make up during the time allotted to me so I have no diploma. I was not interested in studying. I was more keen on living the life of a footloose bachelor—drinking, smoking, cutting classes."

One professor had faith in Rosalio's talent and told him, "When you come back to Manila from Bohol, see me. I want you to apply for a scholarship that will send you abroad."

Rosalio disregarded the advice. He was more intent on rekindling ties with his girlfriend Aludia Rañoa, an actress who appeared in Visayan movies. But his mother was against the relationship. She told him, "Our business is fish. I don't think that actress will ever handle fish the way we do."

When he returned to Manila, the deadline for the scholarship application had passed. The professor boxed Rosalio's arm and cursed him, "*P_tang ina*! If you had applied, you would have been accepted."

The young man shrugged his shoulders. "The future did not interest me," he says. What concerned him was landing a job immediately. His became a sign/billboard painter of a moviehouse. He did not receive a salary; he was after the experience. The moviehouse owner gave him free merienda. "Sometimes I'd only get *singkamas*."

After two months, he joined a firm on Rizal Avenue where his task was to do cutouts of actors like Howard Keel. He moved from one painting shop to another, his money frittered away in movies, beer and live shows at the Manila Opera House and Asia Theater, where Chiquito also danced.

In 1956 he returned to Jagna; the next year he married a local girl, Concordia, who bore him 11 children, two of whom died prematurely. Of the surviving nine, Rosalio proudly claimed, "I was able to send them to school from the proceeds of my paintings." His wife has kept house all these years and raised bonsai.

He was commissioned to do portraits of prominent families in the province and religious paintings and frescoes for the churches, convents and chapels, some of them in Jagna itself, Loay and Dimiao. In his barangay alone, he supplied most, if not all, of the paintings of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Some of his paintings are featured in "*Tubod*: The Arts of Bohol" which opened in November at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila on Roxas Blvd. and runs until February 27. Also on exhibit are religious icons, furniture, baskets and other crafts from the island province.

One of his more recent murals, the four-panel "Blood Compact" commissioned by a Chinese-Filipino businessman to decorate a restaurant in the public market, was brought out and saved when the market burned down.

Asked if he nurtures any regret for choosing the road less taken and settling down in Jagna, he says, "I was a poor art student. I could not afford to exhibit anywhere in Manila unlike the children of the well-to-do. *Mahal ang puwesto*."

Despite his fading eyesight, he says he can still do large-scale paintings. He is pleased that one son, Leonardo, has also become a painter in the conservative style like him. Another son, Takashi, a seaman somewhere in Africa, sends Rosalio a monthly allowance and vitamins.

After serving his barangay as an elected councilor for six years, the older Ortiz thinks that at this stage in his life he can do what he wants. Apart from painting, he smokes cheap cigarettes by choice "because they're milder" and boards a rowboat to paddle to the sea and bathe by his lonesome.

Amalia

...from page 1

gence was a welcome change from the spartan circumstances she was born into. "Poverty and adversity bound our family together during the war," recalls this eldest and only girl among seven siblings. Things did not get any better when her father died and her mother remarried a Protestant pastor.

Added to this daughter's endless chores of washing the dishes and babysitting her brothers was the undefined burden of her looks, which Amalia bore grudgingly early on. "I knew I was beautiful since I was 5," she says. "When we went out to parties, my mother would do my hair in Shirley Temple curls and people would pull my cheeks and pinch me. I hated it. Other kids my age loved parties because of the cake or ice cream, but not me. All that unwanted attention!"

The first Filipina Lux model shows off a complexion to die for, circa early '60s

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The Elizabeth Taylor lookalike in another print ad

The tables turned when she became a teenager and became enamored with movie stars. She was 15 when she became a die-hard fan of Gloria Romero and Nida Blanca. "There was this Holiday in Movie Land at Sampaguita Pictures, when fans could pose with and get autographs from their movie idols," recalls Amalia. "For a whole week, I was on my best behavior because my mother promised to take me there."

Soon enough, with all the jostling and the crowd, the teenage fan got lost. She quickly made her way to the paging booth where sound man Joseph Straight chatted her up. "*Eh sanay ako sa Ingles* (I spoke English well) because there were all these American missionaries in the Christian school that I attended." Straight would later egg her to get the autograph of then movie star Juancho Gutierrez, and take her picture and address.

Before the week was over, a surprised Amalia found a Sampaguita Pictures jeepney parked before their house with a man begging to take her and her mother to the studio. He was rebuffed, but was sent back by the producer, Mrs. Vera Perez.

Recounts Amalia, "When the man came back, I told my mother I wanted to go because it was my chance to go back to Sampaguita and finally get Gloria Romero's autograph." And so, while Mrs. Perez and Amalia's mother haggled over her fees, the young ingénue wandered off around the studio, trying to snare entries for her slumbook.

"My mother finally settled for P50 a week and P2,000 per picture, which was way above the going rate of other contract stars which was P30 a week and P1,000 per picture. At that time, my stepfather was only earning P400 a month," says Amalia.

It was quite a battle to convince her pastor stepfather, who had warned that the movies would turn her into a whore. "I had to look up the word in the dictionary and was shocked to learn what it meant," she recounts. To protect her virtue, her mother sewed her frilly clothes burdened with long sleeves and close necklines that the budding star had to wear to her correspondingly chaste movies. Together with screen rival Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes exemplified the ideals of Filipino womanhood in the late '50s and early '60s.

But virtue, the tempestuous star soon realized, can be extremely boring. Soon enough, she was chafing at her predictable goody-two shoes image. "I wanted to explore other possibilities," says Amalia. "Imagine, I was 26 and still a virgin! I wanted to reinvent myself and get more challenging roles because I felt I was falling into a rut."

Putting up her own movie company, AM Pictures, the young actress shocked local filmdom when she donned fangs and dripped blood as a vampire in "*Kulay Dugo ang Gabi*." Her foray into serious acting eventually netted her two major awards: a Famas in 1966 for "*Ibulong Mo sa Hangin*," and a Manila Filmfest Award in 1970 for "*Pag-ibig Mo, Buhay Ko*."

Proving herself beyond her looks became an obsession. "I've always been challenged by learning; being beautiful is nothing to crow about," says this former Miss No. 1 of Philippine movies.

She took particular pride about being smart and outspoken, something that had her pegged as *suplada* (snobbish) by the movie press. "I like opera and I can't tolerate dumb people," she says. "In the movie set, I would rather read a book than gossip."

Amalia, in fact, won a college scholarship to the US just as the movies beckoned, followed by marriage to actor Romeo Vasquez and subsequent motherhood. Eventually, she had to sublimate her desire for higher studies by sending her brothers to school, some of them for a masteral's degree in the US. In the mid-'80s when she settled in the States, she fi-

To page 7

This Week

Art

Neal Oshima is holding an exhibit of photograms until March 3 at Galleria Duemila, SM Megamall A.

Music

Something Stupid... Called Love, a musical comedy featuring Kyla, Dessa, The Company, RJ Rosales and Jon Santos at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Feb. 28 and March 1 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at CCP Marketing (832-3681), Ticketworld in National Bookstore outlets and Tower Records (891-5610).

The Manila Chamber Orchestra will present a duo-concert featuring **pianist Nena del Rosario-Villanueva and violinist Oscar Yatco** on Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall of Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City. For details, call 818-1403 and 813-3849.

In celebration of the International Women's Month, the Women's Action in Media and the Reproductive Rights Resource Group Philippines will present a fund-raising dinner concert **Jazz 4 Rock: A Concert for Women's Health and Rights** on March 1 at Manansala Ballroom, Manila Galleria Suites in Ortigas. For tickets, call 411-1336.

Onstage

Dulaang UP presents the premiere staging **Kanjincho (The Subscription List)**, a classic Kabuki play that shows the interplay of loyalty and courage on Feb. 28 at 7 p.m., March 1 and 2 at 3 p.m. at the University Theater (Villamor Hall), UP Diliman and on March 14 at 8 p.m., March 15 and 16 at 2:30 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo. For inquiries, call 926-1349 or 920-5301 loc. 6930.

Ang Ibong Adarna at ang Sarimanok, Teatro Adarsari's musical play based on Nick Joaquin's short story for children, will be staged today at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute at the CCP and on March 1 at the Awat Keng Auditorium, Kaisa Heritage Center, Intramuros, Manila. For details, call 897-8050 or 293-2330.

Cinema

Hassle, Jay Lennon Mendoza's debut short film in the 4th Pelikuletran Short Film Festival at Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Intramuros, Manila runs from Feb. 24 to 26. For ticket inquiries and screening schedules, call 0917-3670640/0916-7214486.

***Balay Daku* (Big House)**, an Ilonggo full-length independent digital movie by Jan Philippe "JP" V. Carpio, will have its official Metro Manila premiere at the Eksperimento Film & Video Festival on Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Leandro V. Locsin Theater, ground floor, NCCA Building, 633 General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila. For more information about Balay Daku, visit its official website at http://www.geocities.com/balaydaku/home.htm

Atbp

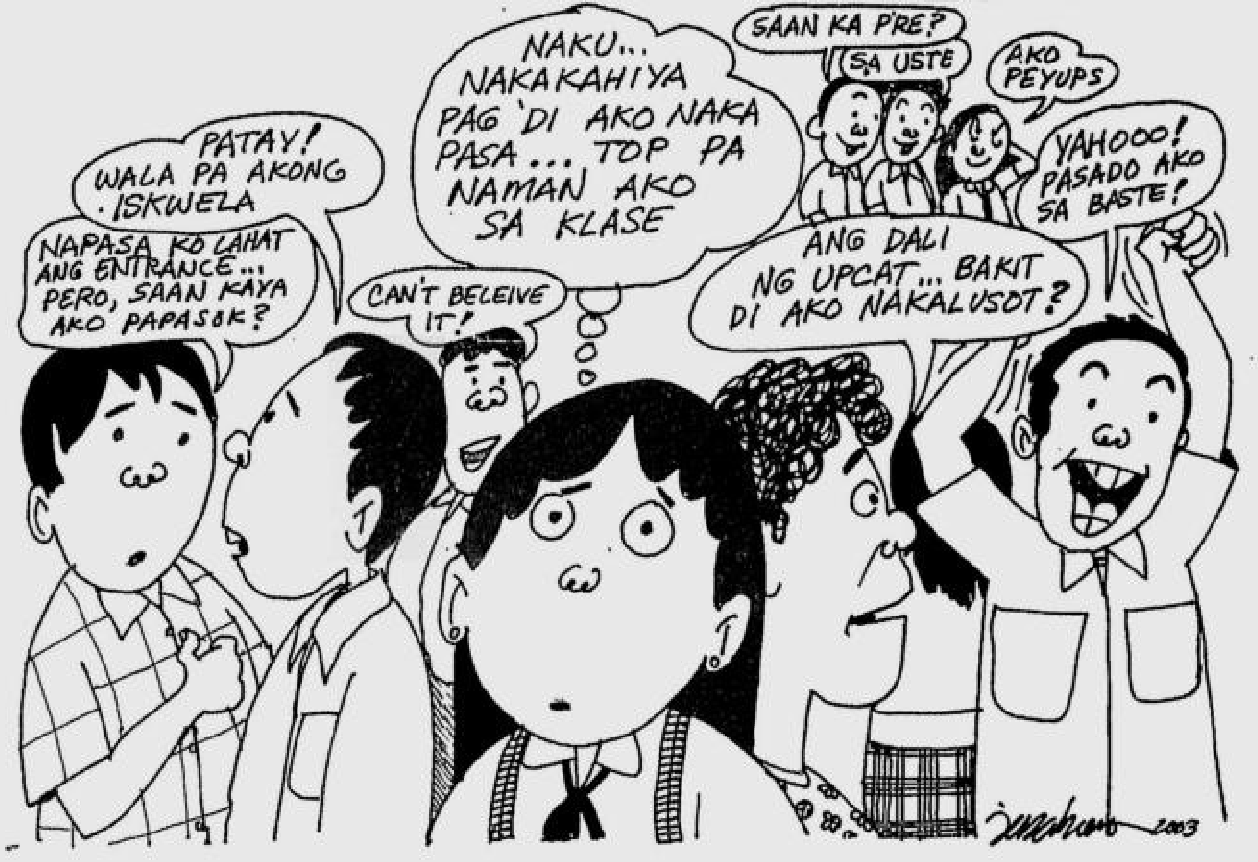
The Cultural Center of the Philippines and Dream Broadcasting System (DBS) will launch the **CCP Dream Theater** and **CCP at the Dream Channel** on Feb. 26, 6 p.m. at the CCP Little Theater Lobby. The launching will introduce CCP's newly-renovated Tanghalang Manuel Conde (Audio-Visual Room) as a venue for receiving and showing films that are broadcast via digital direct-to-home satellite technology. The film "Juan Gulay" by Roxlee will be shown at the said venue. The movie "Cesar Asar" will also be screened during the press preview.

The San Beda College Department of Philosophy, HRD and Humanities together with fourth year management students is sponsoring ***Sining Diwa* 2003: Festival of Arts & Culture** from Feb. 24-28. Activities include arts exhibit, photo and animé artwork exhibit of management and computer students, Arts & Culture Quiz Bee, cultural show and poetry reading, Cine Festival, essay writing and on-the-spot drawing contest, and lectures For details, call Max Felicilda, 735-6011 loc. 5580 or text Rhod Nuncio at 0919-6303664.

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Entrance Exam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CAN'T BELEIVE IT!
NAKU... NAKAKAHIYA PAG 'DI AKO NAKA PASA... TOP PA NAMAN AKO SA KLASE
SAAN KA P'RE?
SA USTE
AKO PEYUPS
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- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Amalia

...from page 6

nally got to live the life she wanted. "It was an answered prayer," Amalia says of her six years taking up Commercial Law in the States. "It was there that I realized my full potential," she adds, recalling those college days that had her taking up creative writing classes, writing an essay on the Berlin Wall and studying films. "After 30 years of not studying at all, I landed second out of 600 who took the entrance exams in college!" she says proudly.

Not that it was smooth sailing all along. Relishing her newfound anonymity, Amalia kept secret her profession in the Philippines and became just another matron going back to school after the children had presumably grown up. She experienced being ridiculed in class for her accent and being bundled with new immigrants who had to take ESL (English as second language) during a qualifying exam. Of course they got a mouthful from her; she wasn't about to take things sitting down.

The same feisty attitude had her cast as villain when only daughter Liezl eloped with actor Albert Martinez in the mid-'80s, with the local press churning out stories of how she turned a blind eye while the couple struggled during their lean years. They had to sleep on the floor, Liezl even said recently in a TV talk show. Amalia has rebutted such claims and recalled how the young couple stayed with her early in their marriage.

But Liezl's elopement had devastated her, she admits. "I had always dreamt of sending her to the best schools. Everything was ready—there was a Mercedes Benz at her disposal, a finishing school in Switzerland, a friend's home in London...Then all my dreams collapsed."

Indeed, it was a rude awakening for the actress. "We shared the same credit card, so when the bills came, I was shocked to find $185 in baby clothes from Nordstrom. My God, she was pregnant!" Earlier, recalls Amalia, the couple had been caught trysting at UP where Liezl was studying so she packed the young girl off to the US posthaste. "I mean, a Filipino actor in America won't matter. How will they manage? I was 27 when I had Liezl, and here she was, only 18. I had to work early on but I wanted her to enjoy life."

When the couple eloped, her world caved in, says Amalia. "For one week, I did not change my clothes, I did not eat. I swallowed 50 sedatives in a week!"

The elopement meant a detour in her career. "I decided not to face the cameras again. What for? I was working for her and now she chose this life. I thought, my God, I'm turning out to be like my mother! She did not support me in my career and now I was doing the same to Liezl."

She does help out the couple occasionally, clarifies Amalia, especially when it comes to her three grandchildren's schooling and health needs. "But not as a monthly responsibility." These days, she dotes on grandchildren Alyanna, Alissa and Alfonso, and her son with Joey Stevens, Geric, who's 19 and taking up Economics at the Ateneo.

"I only deal with the present, I don't dwell on the past," she says, gesturing around her spacious home that is bereft of any trappings of stardom: no acting trophy, no blow-up glamor shots.

Dealing with the present means accepting her age, the actress cites. "I threw a grand party when I turned 50. When I turned 60, I applied for a senior citizens' card. It's very handy for getting discounts on medicines," says the 62-year-old erstwhile movie queen.

She has lived a full life and has no regrets, Amalia declares. Even her failed marriage to Vasquez, her first love, she says, was necessary. "I needed that. If I had succeeded all the time, I would have become cocky. That failed marriage was very humanizing." They're good friends now, she says of her ex.

But yes, she still has big dreams left. "I'd really like to contribute to making a better world. I'd like to speak up for the environment because really, we're killing it, and it's killing us. Look at all those cases of respiratory diseases. If there's any way I can help to make people aware of this and reach out as a celebrity, I'd eagerly do it."

Your move, all you eco-activists out there.

End Page

By Jonathan Best

A Love Affair with *Santos*

Over the years Mrs. Dellota and her husband have acquired over 21,000 of these religious icons, most of them passed on to other Filipino collectors, dealers and museums, here and abroad

OVER 20 years ago, when I first visited the Philippines, one of the first cities I went to outside Manila was Iloilo. It was here that I first met Mrs. Lourdes Dellota, in her somewhat dark and crowded shop close to the center of Jaro, west of Iloilo proper. Inside were display cases filled with art objects, antique bottles, bric-a-brac and hundreds, if not thousands, of *santos*, votive images of Christian saints. An institution in Philippine collecting circles, she is reputed to be the dealer with the finest antique *santos*, and excavated porcelain in the Western Visayas and a charming source of local Iloilo history.

Last month, I had the opportunity to go back to Iloilo and chatted away an afternoon with the antique dealer in her shop. Mrs. Dellota had vivid childhood memories of the final days of World War II. Her widowed mother had evacuated the family of nine children to a small farm north of Iloilo, in Cabatuan. She remembers the night the southern sky was lit up by the fires burning in Iloilo and Jaro as the cities were liberated by American marines and Filipino guerrillas. During the fighting, two of her young nieces were killed by retreating Japanese soldiers.

After the war Mrs. Dellota returned to Iloilo to finish her schooling and majored in accounting. Her first job was for an eccentric American ex-patriot, Charles Newton Hodges, who had made a fortune in Iloilo lending money and investing in real estate. He had a reputation as something of a miser and was very strict about collecting his debts, which did not make him popular in the more forgiving and laid back Visayan culture. However, he proved to be a good boss and rewarded her loyalty and hard work with a generous pay and a transportation business of her own. Working for such a man left her little time for her family and her favorite hobby—antique collecting, which she only started in 1957 when she married Riccarte Dellota. When Hodges died in 1962, Mrs. Dellota faced a major turning point in her life. She could continue the transportation business, which bored her, or take a big risk and plunge into the antiques business, which she loved.

She chose to take the risk and follow her passion for collecting. While still working for Hodges, she had started collecting stamps and coins, and was ready to expand her interests. Sometime in the early 1960s, a friend suggested that she think about collecting *santos*. These Christian icons carved on wood and ivory, were commonly found in older Filipino homes at that time. The collecting boom for *santos* had just started in Manila but no one was collecting in Panay. Once hooked, Mrs. Dellota fell in love with these beautiful figures and applied her good business training to amass a staggering number of them.

J. BEST

Mrs. Lourdes Dellota in her shop in Jaro, Iloilo

Over the years she and her husband acquired over 21,000, almost all from Panay and the central Visayas. The vast majority have now been passed on to other Filipino collectors, dealers and museums here and abroad.

The few remaining gems from Mrs. Dellota's once vast collection include household *santos* that tended to be small, only a few inches to 18 or 24 inches tall. Larger, almost life-sized, figures were made for churches. Originally almost all the icons were painted and the fancier ones had ivory hands and heads, real hair, glass eyes, golden crowns and semi-precious *brilliantes* and seed pearls for adornment.

Her personal favorites however have always been the simpler primitive figures, which showed strong Filipino influence and unique personality. One of her most beautiful is an unusual Madonna with long flowing hair, breastfeeding the Baby Jesus.

Mrs. Dellota explained the different artistic styles, some dating back to the sixteenth century when Christianity arrived and began to replace the older religious traditions. Some *santos* showed the strong European influence exerted by the friars. These had aquiline noses, beards, and long straight European robes. Images carved by early Chinese craftsmen in the Philippines tended to have swirling robes, long sleeves and very slanted eyes. Saints carved by local Filipinos tended to have short legs and flat noses. Filipinos had their own tradition of carving *bulols* (rice guardians) and votive figures in wood and stone long before the Europeans came.

Over the centuries styles slowly changed. Simple *santos* were made for humble clients at the same time that ornate ones were being carved for the rich. Each Philippine province developed its own style and artistic idiosyncrasies. The carving of the base, the backs and the saintly attributes all give clues as to where and when the figures were carved. Up to the middle of the 20th century, when molded plastic and ceramics replaced most wood carvings, interesting "folk art" *santos* were still being made throughout the Philippines.

Mrs. Dellota has not limited herself to *santos* although she admits these are her greatest love. Her husband Riccarte was one of the first to uncover the Oton diggings in the 1970s. This site southwest of Iloilo yielded thousands of pre-Spanish, Chinese porcelain plates, jarlets and gold and ceramic beads, which Mrs. Dellota has been restringing into elegant modern necklaces.

She laments how painful it was to part with many of her favorite *santos* when she retired several years ago. Most of the *santos* may be gone now but Mrs. Dellota still has her fond memories and wealth of information about antiques, and remains every bit as charming as when I first met her many years ago.

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Java Programmer
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